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S. J. Chapman
Sept 1882

A
SIX WEEKS TOUR,
THROUGH THE
SOUTHERN COUNTIES
OF
ENGLAND AND WALES.

A
SIX WEEKS TOUR,
 THROUGH THE
 SOUTHERN COUNTIES
 OF
ENGLAND and WALES.

DESCRIBING, PARTICULARLY,

- | | |
|---|---|
| I. The present State of Agriculture and Manufactures.
II. The different Methods of cultivating the Soil.
III. The Success attending some late Experiments on various Grasses, &c. | IV. The various Prices of Labour and Provisions.
V. The State of the Working Poor in those Counties, wherein the Riots were most remarkable. |
|---|---|

WITH
DESCRIPTIONS and MODELS
 of such new invented IMPLEMENTS of HUSBANDRY as deserve to be generally known:

INTERSPERSED

With ACCOUNTS of the SEATS of the NOBILITY and GENTRY, and other OBJECTS worthy of NOTICE.

IN SEVERAL

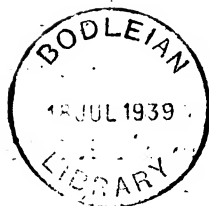
LETTERS to a FRIEND.

BY THE

AUTHOR of the FARMER'S LETTERS.

L O N D O N:

Printed for W. NICOLL, at the Paper-Mill, No. 51,
 in St. Paul's Church-Yard. MDCC LXVIII.



A

SIX WEEKS TOUR, &c.

LETTER I.

Dear SIR,

I Shall comply with your request of giving you a few minutes of my journey into *Wales* and back again, with the utmost readiness. But one condition you must allow me to make with you, which is, that you pardon the incorrectness of hasty letters; written from inns, farm-houses and cottages, with accuracy in nothing but the matter of my inquiries; as to my language you must excuse it. I shall not be wanting in care to gain as complete a knowledge as possible of the present state of the agriculture, manufactures, and population of the several counties through which I pass; and I shall be free enough to scatter throughout my intelligence, such remarks

B

as

as my little experience will allow me to make. I have already thrown upon paper the beginning of my tour from *Wells* to *Hadleigh* in *Suffolk*; the minutes of which are as follows.—But first let me make some apologies for being so particular in my description of several country seats of the nobility and gentry, I viewed, especially in *Norfolk*. The professed design of my sketches is husbandry; but it would have been great stupidity to pass very near a celebrated house without viewing it; and when seen, there are so many things worthy of mentioning, that I thought they would serve to vary the tenor of my letters in general, and render them somewhat more entertaining. So you must accept the medley, and not be too criticising on any jumble of heterogeneous parts. So much for apologies, which by the bye I hate abominably; and now to the journey.

From *Wells* towards *Lynn* I moved rather in a zig-zag manner, crossing the country more than once.

The plantations around *Warham*, the seat of Sir *John Turner*, are disposed with so much taste, that I would not have you
go

go into *Norfolk* on the *Houghton* and *Holkam* tour without visiting it; but what attracted my notice more, was Sir *John's* improvement by *Sainfoyn*, which he introduced into this country from *Gloucestershire*. It has flourished with him for many years, he mows it constantly for hay, of which it yields a large crop, generally near three tons per acre; but I could not find the example followed by any of the neighbouring farmers. *Lucerne*, Sir *John* purposes trying broadcast, and singling the plants out with a hand hoe, in the method that turnips are done; but if he brings that method to answer, I should think it extraordinary.

Holkam, the celebrated house of the Countess of *Leicester*, built by the late Earl, cannot be viewed with too much attention. I was informed that it appeared by much the most magnificent when entered by the southern approach, and therefore went a small round for that advantage; nor did I in the least repent it. The first objects are a few small clumps of trees, which just catch your attention, and give you warning of *an approach*: they sketch out the way to the triumphal arch, under

which the road runs. This structure is in a beautiful taste, and finished in an elegant manner; it is extremely light, and the white flint rustics have a fine effect. A narrow plantation on each side a broad vista, leads from hence to the obelisk, a mile and a half: this plantation, I should observe, ought to be much broader, for you see the light through many parts of it; but I apprehend it only a sketch of what the late Earl designed, and not meant as complete. At the bottom of the hill, on which the obelisk stands, are the two porters lodges, small, but very *neat* structures. Rising with the hill, you approach the obelisk, through a very fine plantation; and nothing can be attended with a better effect, than the vistas opening at once. There are eight. 1. To the south front of the house. 2. To *Holkam* church, on the top of a steep hill, covered with wood; a most beautiful object. 3. To the town of *Wells*, a parcel of scattered houses appearing in the wood. 4. To the triumphal arch:—the rest to distant plantations. Vistas are by no means the taste of the present age, but such a genius as lord *Leicester* might be allowed to deviate from *fashion* in

favour of *beauty* and *propriety*. Nothing can be more regular than the front of a great house, the approach to it ought therefore to partake of this regularity: Because straight cuts are out of fashion, it would be an absurdity to take a winding course to the house door, for the sake of catching objects afloat, and irregularly: such management is to the full in as false a taste, as regular cuts where the house is out of the question. For instance, those from the temple at *Holkam*, which, however, command exceedingly beautiful objects; amongst others, *Wells* church——The lake in the park, which is seen from hence through some spreading trees in a most picturesque manner——A planted hill——The sea——and the rest, distant plantations.

The house may be said to consist of five quadrangles, the center, and the four wings:—Not that they are squares, but I use the term to give you a general idea. Each of the two fronts thereof present a center and two wings. That to the south, and the grand approach, is as beautiful, light, airy, (excuse tautology) and elegant a building as can be viewed. The portico is in a fine taste, and the Corinthian pil-

B 3

lars

lars beautifully proportioned*. This central front in every respect that can be named, appears all lightness, elegance, and proportion:—But when you advance near, you find no entrance to the house; there are no stairs up to the portico; and this circumstance, after so fine an approach, and so long seeing the portico, and expecting it to be the entrance, becomes a disappointment, and a fault in the building.

I have spoke hitherto of the central front alone. The whole, including the two wings, I cannot think so perfect; for, to me at least, there appears a great want of unity. The several parts are not so nicely connected as to form one whole. The center must be seen distinct, each wing the same; and likewise the small parts (I know not what to call them) which join the center to the wings. These are all distinct parts, though joined together; nor is there any similitude of taste between the center and the wings. All the pieces of this front

* It may be said the proportion of a pillar is stated, and always the same.—I know nothing of architecture, but view these at *Holkam* and others at *Blenheim*—I never speak by rules, but my eyes.

are

are light and elegant to a great degree; but when considered as the connected parts of one whole, the want of unity is striking. The center is uniform, and, if I may be allowed the expression, elegantly magnificent: no building can deserve these epithets more than this: but I cannot apply them to the whole front, because the parts are not of a uniform taste, and the wings are at best but light and elegant; they have nothing magnificent in them: as to the *joining pieces*, they are *pretty*.—The south front consists of one row of *Venetian* windows, over another of common sashes in the rusticks. This front does not please me so well as the south one, but it is by far more of a piece with the wings, &c.

Will you excuse these criticisms from one who knows nothing of architecture, but its power of pleasing the taste of individuals—As one among the many, I give you my opinion, but I wish you would pass over all these parts of my letters, till you see the objects yourself, for I cannot give you an idea of the buildings clear enough by description for you to see the propriety or absurdity of my remarks.

B 4

But

But the inside of the house! say you——
 Aye, my friend, there lies the *forte* of *Holkam*;
 talk not, ye admirers by wholesale, of the
 fronts——*contrivance* must have been the
 characteristic of lord *Leicester*; for so con-
 venient a house does not exist——so admir-
 ably adapted to the *English* way of living,
 and so ready to be applied to the *grand* or
 the comfortable stile of life.

You enter what they call the great hall,
 but what is in reality a passage. It is call-
 ed a cube of 48 feet; but eighteen very
 large and magnificent *Corinthian* pillars,
 having their pedestals rested on a marble
 passage around it, and eight or ten feet
 high from the ground, the area at bottom
 is but an oblong passage, walled in with
Derbyshire marble, and upon that wall are
 the pillars, six in a line on each side, and
 six in front in a semi-circle around a flight
 of steps up to the saloon door. The passage
 or gallery, as it may be called, runs around
 these pillars, and both together take up so
 much room that all sort of proportion is
 lost; to look from it into the area, it ap-
 pears exactly like a bath. The south front
 was one proof, and this hall is another,
 that the architect's genius was not of the
 magnifi-

magnificent or sublime stamp, for in both he aimed at greatness; the impression of the front is varied and consequently weakened by the wings, and the want of proportion in the hall ruins the vast effect which would otherwise attend the magnificence of such pillars so nobly arranged; but in the elegant, the pleasing, the agreeable, his taste has never failed throughout the whole building.—The hall is entirely of *Derbyshire* marble.

The saloon is 42 feet by 27, a proportion much condemned, but it is by no means displeasing to me. Some call it a gallery; and I think a gallery is infinitely preferable to a cube, or to any proportion near a square enormously high: one of the finest rooms in *England* is the double cube at *Wilton*, which is more of a gallery than the saloon at *Holkam*, and yet no one ever entered it without being struck with the justness of the proportions.—This saloon is hung with crimson cassoy; the pier glasses small on account of the narrowness of the piers, each against a pillar of the portico; but in a very elegant taste. The rooms to the left of the saloon are, first, a drawing room 33 by 22, hung with
crimson

crimson cassoy. The pier glasses very large and exceedingly elegant: The agate tables beautiful beyond description. From thence we entered the landscape room, which is a dressing-room to the state bedchamber; it is 24 by 22, hung with crimson damask; a passage-room leads to the anti-room to the chapel, and then into the state gallery. The walls are of *Derbyshire* marble; the altar and all the decorations in a very fine taste. Returning to the landscape-room, you pass into the state bedchamber, 30 by 24, which is fitted up in a most elegant taste. It is hung with *French* tapestry, except between the piers, which is by Mr. *Saunders* of *Soho-square*, the colours of the whole exceedingly brilliant. The bed is a cut velvet, upon a white fatten ground, and as it appears in common is a very handsome gilt settee, under a canopy of state: the design of this bed is equal to any thing you ever saw. The chimney-piece remarkably beautiful; Pellicans in white marble. The next apartment is lady *Leicester's*, consisting of a bed-chamber, dressing-room, closet with books, and a smaller one. The bed-chamber 24 by 22, purple damask, *French* chairs of *Chiffel-street*

Best velvet tapestry; the chimney-piece a bass. rel. of white marble finely polished. The dressing-room 28 by 24, hung with blue damask. So much for the suite of rooms to the left of the hall and saloon.

On the other side you enter from the latter, another drawing-room 33 by 22, hung with a crimson flowered velvet. The glasses, tables, and chimney-pieces are well worthy of your attention. From this room you enter the statue gallery; which I think, is, without exception, the most beautiful room I ever beheld: the dimensions are to the eye proportion itself—nothing offends the most criticising. It consists of a middle part 70 feet by 22, and at each end an octagon of 22, open to the center by an arch; in one are compartments with books, and in the other statues: Those in the principal part of the gallery stand in niches in the wall, along one side of the room, on each side the chimney-piece. Observe in particular the *Diana*, the figure is extremely fine, and the arms admirably turned. The *Venus* in wet drapery is likewise exquisite; nothing can exceed the manner in which the form of the limbs is seen through the cloathing. The
slabs

flabs are very fine; the ceiling, the only plain one in the house, (they are all gilt fret work and mosaic) not accidentally; it appears to me a stroke of propriety and true taste.

The entrance I have already mentioned from the drawing-room is into one octagon, and out of the other opens the door into the dining-room, a cube of 28 feet, with a large recess for the sideboard, and two chimney-pieces exceedingly elegant; one a sow and pigs and wolf, the other a bear and bee-hives, finely done in white marble; the nose of the sow was broke off by a too common misapplication of sense, *feeling* instead of *seeing*; *John*, to an object of sight, presents his fist or his horse-whip. Returning into the statue gallery, one octagon leads into the strangers wing, and the other to the late Earl's apartment: consisting of, 1. The anti-room. 2. His Lordship's dressing-room. 3. The library, 50 by 21, and exceedingly elegant. 4. Her Ladyship's dressing-room. 5. The bed-chamber. 6. A closet with books. The rooms are about 22 by 20. The strangers wing consists of, anti-chamber — dressing-room — bed-chamber — closet, with

with books—bed-chamber—dressing-room—bed-chamber—dressing-room. The fitting up of the whole house, in all particulars not mentioned, is in the most beautiful taste, the *Venetian* windows beyond any you ever beheld; ornamented with magnificent pillars, and a profusion of gilding.

But now, sir, let me come to what of all other circumstances is in *Holkam* infinitely the most striking, and what renders it so particularly superior to all the great houses in the kingdom—*convenience*. In the first place, with the state apartments—From the hall to the saloon, on each side a drawing-room, through one of them to the state dressing-room and bed-chamber: this is perfectly complete. Through the other drawing-room to the statue-gallery, which may be called the rendezvous room, and connects a number of apartments together, in an admirable manner; for one octagon opens into the private wing, and the other into the strangers on one side, and into the dining-room on the other. This dining-room is on one side of the hall, on the other is lady *Leicester's* dressing-room; and through that

that her bed-chamber and closets. From the recess in the dining-room opens a little door on to a stair case, which leads immediately to the offices; and I should likewise tell you, that in the center of the wings, by the center of the house, by the saloon door, and behind lady L——'s closet, are stair cases quite unseen, which communicate with all the rooms, and lead down into the offices.—I say *down*; for the hall is the only room seen on the ground floor; you step directly from a coach into it, without any quarry of winding steps to wet a lady to the skin before she gets under cover. From the hall you rise to the saloon, or first floor, and there is no attick. Thus you perceive there are four general apartments, which are all distinct from each, with no reciprocal thoroughfares;—the state—her Ladyship's—the late Earl's—and the strangers wing. These severally open into what may be called common rooms, the hall, statue-gallery, and saloon, and all immediately communicate with the dining-room. There may be houses larger, and more magnificent, but human genius can never contrive any thing more convenient.

I fear

I fear I have already exposed myself in my criticisms on architecture, what shall I therefore say to the paintings! Relye upon your candour, and exprefs to you nothing but my feelings; I had rather praise what the critics would call an execrable piece, than be guided merely by the dictates of common fame: Many a *Vernet* may please me as well as a *Claud*. I shall minnte the painters names, with the subjects, and here and there an occasional remark.

Cignani. *Joseph and Potiphar's wife*; a good piece.

P. Pietris. *Virgin and child*:

Pouffin. Two large landscapes.
A smaller one.

Three others in the landscape-room; fine.

Two others.

Vandyke. Duke of *Aremberg*; a very fine piece.

P. Cortona. *Coriolanus*: The figure of the old man kneeling before *Coriolanus*, and hiding his face with his hands, is extremely fine; but the figure of *Coriolanus* himself, without

without dignity, haughtiness, or any great expression. The wife leading her two children, and smiling on them, forms a figure of no expression: The colouring, however, and the back ground are good; the disposition indifferent.

Jacob and Esau, dark and disagreeable.

Giuseppi Chierera. Continnence of *Scipio*.

The profile of the *Spanish* lady, wonderfully graceful and fine. *Scipio's*, a very bad figure, his countenance without expression; but the disposition of the group very well imagined.

Perfius and *Andromeda*; *Andromeda's* figure, a very good one, and the whole piece well coloured.

Procobiano. Death of *Lucretia*; the lights and shades very bad.

Quintus Cincinnatus.

Guido.

Guido.

Joseph and *Potiphar's* wife:
None of this famous painter's
bright and glowing manner.
The colouring hard and disagreeable.

A saint's head.

Cupid.

Assumption; vile.

Rubens.

Flight into *Egypt*. A good
picture; but the figures disagreeable,
especially *Mary's*,
who is a female mountain.
The drawing appears to be
bad.

Birds.

Titian.

Venus; the colouring gone
off, hard and disagreeable.

Venetian lady; colours gone.

Woman's head; ditto.

Dominichino. *Lot* and his daughters; dark
and disagreeable.

Abraham and *Isaac*, (in the
landscape-room) rather in a
dark stile.

C

Carlo

Carlo Maratt. A landscape; not in his bright manner.

Judith and Holopbernes; dark.

Madona, reading.

Apollo and Daphne.

Magdalen and angel.

Vernet. Two views of a storm; both exceeding fine.

Salvator Rosa. A rock; very fine.

P. Bolonese. A rock.

St. John Baptist.

Onionte. Two landscapes.

L. Giordano. *St. John* preaching.

Claud. Loraine. Landscapes; river and bridge.

Pegasus.

Argus.

Apollo keeping sheep.

Three others.

Repose in Egypt.

In these landscapes, *Claud's* elegant genius shines with uncommon lustre.

Luca-

Lucatelli. Two landscapes.

Hamilton. *Jupiter* and *Juno*; colouring bad; her neck and face the best.

An. Carrach. *Polypbeme* and *Galatea*; the drawing strong and fine.

Conca. Two altar pieces; indifferent colouring.

Albano. Holy family.

P. Laura. Two pieces of boys and flowers.

Raphael. *Madona* and child; drawing and colouring very fine.

Holy family: but *quere* of both to the connoisseurs in originality.

Parmegiano. Woman in a cave; pleases me better than any piece in this collection. The face very expressive, extremely delicate, finely turned, and the drapery exquisite, displaying the round-

ness of the limbs through it in the happiest taste.

P. Veronese. *M. Magdalen*, washing our Saviour's feet.

Bassan. *Christ* carrying the cross.

Lanfranco. Youth and old age, two pieces. The old man very fine. Angel appearing to *Joseph* in a dream; dark stile.

And. Sacchi. *Abraham, Ishmael, &c.*

Cypriani. *St. Anne*, and *St. Cecilia*. The colouring very fine; the attitudes admirable, and the drapery graceful.

The object most striking on the north side of the park, is the lake, which is of great extent, and the most beautiful I ever saw; the shore is a very bold one, all covered with wood to a great height, and on the top stands the church. The plantations in general are sketched with more taste than any to be seen: In the number of acres many exceed them; but they appear to various points of view, infinitely more considerable than they really are. At the north entrance into the park, they show prodi-

prodigiously grand; you look full upon the house with a very noble back ground of wood; the obelisk just above the center; with an extent of plantation on each side that renders the view really magnificent. Nothing can be more beautiful than that from the church, the house appears in the midst of an amphitheatre of wood, the plantations rising one above another. Another point of view which I would recommend to you, is the vale on the east side of the park. The north plantation stretches away to the right, with vast magnificence, and the south woods to the left, and joining in the front, which is an extent of plantation that has a noble effect,—But to return to husbandry.

All the country from *Holkam* to *Houghton* was a wild sheep-walk before the spirit of improvement seized the inhabitants; and this glorious spirit has wrought amazing effects; for instead of boundless wilds, and uncultivated wastes, inhabited by scarce any thing but sheep; the country is all cut into inclosures, cultivated in a most husband-like manner, richly manured, well peopled, and yielding an hundred times the produce that it did in

its former state. What has wrought these vast improvements is the marling; for under the whole country run veins of a very rich soapy kind, which they dig up, and spread upon the old sheep-walks, and then by means of inclosing they throw their farms into a regular course of crops, and gain immensely by the improvement.

The farms are all large, and the rents low, for the farmers having been at a great expence in improvements, they could not afford them without very long leases; so that most of the farms are lett at present at rents much under their value: add to this a considerable part of the country belongs to landlords, who have a vanity in not raising their rents, and others are supposed to have taken moderate fines; all together the farmers have managed to raise considerable fortunes, and to bid fair for being the *possessors* of the whole county.

The farms run from 300 *l.* to 900 *l.* a year, for which sums they have a great quantity of land: it is very difficult to discover the rents among such large farmers, who all make a great secret of it; but I have very good reasons for believing, that they are in general, from 2 *s.* 6 *d.* to 6 *s.* *per acre.* Many

Many farms under a modern lease are rented at 10 s. and more *per acre*, but they are not very common. I speak of a large tract of country stretching from *Holkam* to the sea westward, and south to *Swafham*.

The principal farms (at least those that are most commonly mentioned) are Mr. *Curtis's* of *Sommerfield*, 2500 acres. Mr. *Mallet's* of *Dunton*, as much. Mr. *Barton's* of *Rougham*, 3000. Messrs. *Glover's* of *Creek* and *Barwic* *. Messrs. *Savary's* of *Synderstone*, each 1100 acres. Cultivation in all its branches is carried on by these men, and many others, in a very complete manner. But marling is the great foundation of their wealth.

They lay about 100 loads on an acre, which costs them for digging from 1 l. 5 s. to 1 l. 10 s. and they reckon the expences of the team, and other labour, to be as much more. The improvement lasts in great vigour above twenty years; and the land is always the better for it. Their course of crops is—Marle, and break up for wheat. 2. Turnips. 3. Barley. 4. Laid down with clover and ray-grass for three

* The latter lately dead.

years, or sometimes only two. They dung or fold for all their winter corn, and reckon two nights fold equal to a dunging; the quantity of the latter they lay upon an acre is 12 loads. For some years after the marling, they reap; on a medium, four quarters of wheat *per* acre, and five of barley; and 15 or 18 years after marling, three quarters of wheat, and four and a half of soft corn.

The general œconomy of their farms will appear from the following sketch of one of 1100 acres.

The farmer generally has :

100	acres	of	winter-corn.
250	-	-	barley and oats.
50	-	-	pease.
200	-	-	turnips.
400	-	-	grasses.
100	-	-	sheep-walk.
<hr/>			
1100			

He keeps :

6 Servants.

6 Labourers,

30 Horses.

20 Cows,

900 Sheep.

5 Ploughs.

And in harvest time has in all about forty people in the field.

The culture of turnips is here carried on in a most extensive manner; *Norfolk* being more famous for this vegetable than any county in the kingdom; but I have seen much larger turnips grow in *Suffolk* in gravelly loams than ever I saw in *Norfolk*. The use to which they apply their vast fields of turnips, is the feeding their flocks, and expending the surplus in fattening *Scotch* cattle, which they do both in the stall-feeding method, in binns in their farm-yards, others in pasture fields; and others again hurdle them on the turnips as they grow, in the same manner as they do their sheep: by stall-feeding they make their crop go much the furthest; but the beasts so fed, are apt to founder on the road to *London*, the expences on it are great, and the soil loses the urine: but all these methods are yet in use. When the marle begins to wear out of the soil, many of the great farmers have latterly got into a method of manuring with oil cakes for their winter corn, which they import from
Holland,

Holland, and spread on their fields at the expence of about 15 s. *per* acre.

There is no great conjuration necessary to discover the reasons of such large fortunes being made in this country by farmers; for hiring unimproved lands at a small rent, and finding very fine marle every where under them, they made thereby such a vast improvement, that nothing less than a perpetual drought could prevent large crops. Their soil is in general a very light sandy loam, which in years which are more inclined to wet than dryness, throws out immense crops, the very wettest that can come are not too much for their lands: every one, I believe, will allow that the chances of the seasons, in this moist climate, are infinitely more in their favour, than if their soil was of the heavy cast. Let us instance the farm above specified:

	l.	s.	d.
100 acres winter corn, at			
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ qr. <i>per</i> acre, 350 qr.			
and as a small part of it			
is rye, say the price is			
1 l. 10 s.	-	-	-
		525	0 0 0
Carry over		525	0 0 0

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Brought over,	525	0	0
250 acres barley and oats, by far the most of the former, at 4½ qr. <i>per</i> acre, 1125 qr. at 16s.	-	900	0
50 pease, 4 qr. <i>per</i> acre, 200 qr. at 1 l. 4s. <i>per</i> qr.	-	240	0
The methods of laying the profit by a flock, are so va- rious in different counties, that I believe the medium of what is generally known is nearest the truth; and that is 10s. <i>per</i> sheep in lamb and wool, upon an average; that on 900 is	-	450	0
20 cows, at 4 l.	-	80	0
Hogs	-	50	0
		<hr/>	
		2245	0
		<hr/>	

This slight calculation takes in no
beasts fatted with turnips, because these
are uncertain, and a variable crop; and
other branches of profit are purposely
omitted, that no one might, *on the whole*,

think it over-strained. As to his expences, a few of the principal articles will shew that no one can run them up to any thing considerable.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Rent at 5 <i>s.</i> per acre,	-	-	275 0 0
Oats for his horses, as all soft corn is before charged;			
all the 30 are not in constant food, but run in the farm-yard; say therefore,			
120 qr. at 12 <i>s.</i>			72 0 0
Seed for 400 acres of corn, including the grasses sown with 200, on a medium at			
9 <i>s.</i> per acre	-	-	180 0 0
Six servants,	-	-	120 0 0
Six labourers,	-	-	150 0 0
Wear and tear, say	-	-	70 0 0
Harvest, on a medium, 4 <i>s.</i> an acre,	-	-	80 0 0
			<hr/>
			947 0 0
	<i>£.</i>		<hr/>
Produce,	-	2245	
Expences,	-	947	
		<hr/>	
Profit	1298		
	<hr/>		
			Here

Here we find a regular income of 1300 *l.* a year, on a medium of prices and seasons. What therefore has it been for these four or five wet years last past! I have no doubt but that 1300 *l.* has some years been carried to near 3000 *l.* But without advancing it so high, it is very plain that a long lease of a good *Norfolk* farm, is infinitely preferable to the fee simple of it :— and that there is the greatest prospect of seeing this kingdom, a land of yeomenry : a thing not to be dreaded, for better landed property can never exist.—In addition to this remark, I might observe that a *Norfolk* farmer, Mr. *Mallet*, above mentioned, made a purchase the other day of 18,000 *l.* and it is supposed could buy as much more.

Before I quit this region of farmers, I should not forget to tell you that the *French* account of the *Norfolk* husbandry, which M. *de Boulainvilliers* has introduced into his *Les Interests de la France mal entendus*, tom. 1. p. 136, &c. is full of mistakes; and in particular, where it mentions the vast improvement by lucerne; for not a sprig of lucerne have I found in the fields of a common farmer.

L A.

LABOUR.

In Winter, 1 s. 2 d.

In Spring, 1 s. 2 d.

In Harvest, 2 l. 12 s. 6 d. or 3 l. for the harvest, besides meat, drink, and lodging. It lasts from a month to five weeks.

Hoeing of turnips, 3 s. the first time, 2 s. the second.

Ploughing *per* acre, 2 s. 6 d.

PROVISIONS.

	<i>d.</i>
Bread, - -	2 <i>per</i> lb.
Butter, - -	6
Mutton, - -	4
Beef, - -	4
Veal, - -	3½
Candles, - -	7
Coals, 1 l. 1 s. 0	<i>per</i> chaldr. at <i>Lynn</i> .

The country around *Rainham*, the seat of lord *Townshend*, is rich and finely cultivated, and the situation of the house, the park, and the water, very desirable: the building itself is rather in the stile of an exceeding good habitable house, than a magnifi-

magnificent one. But the famous picture of *Belsharius*, by *Salvator Rosa*, has more expression in it, than any painting I think I ever saw. Ask to see lady *Townshend's* dressing-room; it is furnished with prints, stuck with much taste on a green paper.

The first appearance of *Houghton*, the celebrated seat of the earl of *Orford*, built by Sir *Robert Walpole*, is that of several very magnificent plantations, which surround it every way. In the road from *Syderstone*, they appear, I think, to the greatest advantage: they are seen to a great extent; with openings left judiciously in many places to let in the view of more distant woods; which changes the shade, and gives them that solemn brownness, which has always a very great effect. The flatness of the country, however, is a circumstance, which, instead of setting them off, and making them appear larger than they really are, gives them a diminutive air, in comparison to the number of acres really planted: for were these vast plantations disposed upon ground with great inequalities of surface, such as hills rising one above another, or vast slopes stretching away to the right and left, they would

would appear to be almost boundless, and shew twenty times the extent they do at present. The woods which are seen from the south front of the house are planted with great judgment, to remedy the defect of the country's flatness; for they are so disposed, as to appear one beyond another, in different shades, to a great extent.

In the house you enter, first, the great hall, a cube of 40 feet; which, bad as the proportion is, is certainly a very noble room: yet one would imagine the architect purposed to destroy the effect of so large an one, by sticking three quarters around it, what is called a gallery:—it is a balcony pushed out in defiance of all ideas of grace, elegance, or proportion. Opposite the chimney is an exceeding fine cast of the *Laocoon*. From the hall you enter the saloon; which, but for height, would be one of the finest rooms in the world. It is forty by thirty; and forty high, which is excessively out of proportion. To the left you turn into a drawing-room, 30 by 21, hung with a yellow damask. Out of that into the blue damask bed-chamber, 22½ by 21½. Then into a very small dressing-room,

room, and next a small closet, out of which you enter the library, $22\frac{1}{2}$ by $21\frac{1}{2}$, which leads to the dining-parlour, 30 by 21; and that opens into the hall; so one side of the house is taken up with the foregoing apartments. The other side of the saloon is another drawing-room, called the *Carlo Maratt* room, from being covered with pictures by that master, 30 by 21. Out of which you enter the green velvet bed-chamber, then a dressing-room $21\frac{1}{2}$ by 18, then another bed-chamber the same size; next the cabinet $22\frac{1}{2}$ by $21\frac{1}{2}$, which leads into the marble parlour 30 by 21, and is exceedingly elegant, one side being entirely of white marble; and this concludes the right hand side, opening into the hall.

Having thus run through the rooms, I should tell you that the *fitting up*, for instance, doors, door-cases, windows, and cornishes, &c. &c. is as magnificent as you can conceive, and in as great a stile as any single room in *England*: lastly, let me add that the collection of pictures which ornaments them is most undoubtedly the first in *England*, after the royal o. c. I made a few minutes of what struck me most as I viewed them, and here they fol-

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low: I submit them to your candour, not as the criticisms of a connoisseur, but the mere expression of my feelings, without any regard to names or reputations. I shall not mention one quarter of the pictures; an omission of no consequence, as the very ingenious Mr. *Horace Walpole* has published a complete catalogue of them. Many of the capital pieces are in what is called the picture gallery, which was the green house; it is in one of the wings.

Rembrant. *His wife.* The hands and face most inimitable. The clear obscure wonderfully fine.

Abraham's sacrifice. The head of *Abraham* very great. The mixture of grief, piety, and awe, finely pourtrayed; nothing can exceed it: and the lights and shades admirable.

Rubens. *Mary Magdalen washing our Saviour's feet.* Her figure most inimitably coloured, particularly the head and the tears. The heads of the old men vastly fine, and of a noble gusto. This picture is

as.

as different from *Rubens's* common pieces, as he himself was superior to the lowest dawber.

Titian. Simeon and child. His head exquisite, and the air wonderfully fine.

An. Carracci. Virgin and child. The child a very disagreeable figure. The head appears to me badly drawn.

Venus. The colouring disagreeable and without softness or delicacy: The drawing admirable.

Morello. Assumption. Air of the virgin's head, beautiful and graceful.

Carlo Maratt. Virgin teaching a boy Jesus to read. Air of the Virgin's head—The child—The colouring—Grace—and clear obscure, beyond all praise: most sweetly delicate and graceful.

Virgin and St. Joseph. The colouring very disagreeable.

Christ's sermon on the mount.

D. 2 The

The figure of *Christ* without dignity or expression.

Poussin.

Holy family. Drapery very good, particularly the Virgin's — the limbs seen through it.

Vandyke.

Rubens's wife. A most celebrated picture: but not an agreeable one: what strikes me most are the hands and arms, which are finer than any I ever beheld: The drapery is likewise admirable.

P. da Cortona. *Christ in the garden.* Air and expression of the head admirable.

Dobson.

Two heads. The expression of the faces wonderfully fine.

Velasco.

A Pope's head. Amazingly expressive: every line of the face exquisitely painted.

Death of Joseph. Exceeding fine heads.

Vanderwerf.

David and Abishag. The colouring and finishing of this piece is beyond all description.

Abishag's naked body is inimitably done. Such a soft delicacy of flesh, so much brightness

ness of clear obscure, and such a height of finishing as exceeds any thing of the kind I ever met with. *Bathsheba's* face is extremely expressive and finely painted. In *David* there is a great fault; his face is that of an old man, but the naked of his body is quite youthful, without those strong lines, and muscular traces which appear so finely in painting.

Mela.

Cocles. Nothing can be finer than the attitude of *Cocles*.

Quin. Matfis. *Usurer and his wife*; full of that vast expression, usual in this master's pieces: the penury in their countenances is admirable.

Bourdon.

Two women; very disagreeable.

Guido.

Consultation of the elders. The finest picture in the collection. The colours—clear obscure—disposition of the figures—expression of the

countenances and airs of the heads of the old men, beyond all description. The whole is so wonderfully fine, that one cannot quickly leave off viewing it.

Adoration. The delicacy of the boy beyond expression. The old man's head on the right side exceedingly fine, and very much in the stile of that in the Consultation, under the Virgin.

Dominichino. Virgin and child. The colouring disagreeable, with no brightness; but the attitude inimitable.

L. Carrack. Christ in the sepulchre. The dead body very expressive, but nothing of the clear obscure; light strangely diffused.

Salvator Rosa. Prodigal son. Prodigious expression. If a Dutchman is by he will make you observe the ragged shirt.—The whole picture is amazingly fine.

In my way from *Houghton* to the sea coast, by *Hunston*, &c. I found much
barren

barren land, or rather reputedly barren; for a really barren soil I do not believe exists in any large quantities; the *Norfolk* improvers might turn these tracts of warren and sheep-walks into profitable farms. One of the greatest improvements in the country is Mr. *Curtis's* farm of *Sommerfield*, belonging to Mrs. *Henley* of *Docking*. It consists of 2500 acres of land, all gained from sheep-walks; and which now is regularly inclosed and yields immense crops of corn: Insomuch that this farm has been mentioned as the best in *Europe*. The rent is said to be very small, and the produce exceeding great, the profit may therefore be easily conceived. The home-stall is worth your viewing if you travel this country: it is prettily planted, and very neat. Nor would I have any one leave this part of the country without employing a few hours in viewing the environs of *Docking*, Mrs. *Henley's* seat.—The plantations, tho' small, are in a very pretty taste. Her temple is light and elegant, and well placed, both for commanding a fine view of the country, and also as an object in sight of the house. The hermitage is as pretty a thing as any of the kind that I have seen.

It is a little cottage of two rooms, situated in one of her plantations of shrubs and firs. The first room is walled with oyster-shells, the white side outwards, and the brown edges filed off; the pavement of clean small pebbles; the chimney piece of grotto shell-work: The cieling is papered, and at one end is the hermit's bed, a boarded one painted, with painted canvass curtains. The other room is wainscotted with very curious old carved wainscot, of *Henry the VIIth's* reign, and the cieling, &c. decorated in a rustic manner, with scrolls and festoons of sea-weed, deal shavings, and painted ropes, in a gothic, but very neat taste.

From *Docking* I proceeded to *Snettisham*, the seat of *Nicholas Styleman, Esq;* where *Mrs. Styleman* has formed some exceeding pretty plantations; particularly those upon a stream, which she calls *New-bridge* and *Catherine's-island*: This stream is managed with true taste; naturally it is only a ditch, but where this lady has improved it, it is a winding stream of clear water, and the greatest ornament to her plantations. On one part of its banks she has a very neat circular cottage for
break-

breakfasting, and near it a menagerie with a great variety of birds; in this part of the stream are all sorts of water-fowl. From her menagerie you cross the stream and pass along its winding banks to the grotto, which is very prettily contrived out of a boat, by cutting it in halves and fixing it together with a little addition. It is stuck full of spar, shells, sea-weed, coral, glass, ore, &c. all disposed with taste and elegance. The front pretty, but too regular, and not rustic enough, composed of the same materials on a ground of powdered sea-shells stuck in cement. The situation is very pretty, by the side of the stream, close to a small cascade, and in the shade of several large weeping willows.—The stream is yet more beautiful in the other plantation, called *Catherine's-island*; for it forms five little woody islands, with cool, shady, and sequestered walks about it, in a taste that does great honour to this most ingenious lady's fancy. The plantations behind the house have great variety, and are sketched out with much taste. The road from *Snettisham* to *Lynn* is over a most sandy tract of land; which has the appearance of a desert. A good husbandman cannot view the latter named

named town, without regretting the quantity of manure lost there, for want of a spirit in the neighbouring farmers to bring it away: they might have vast quantities of cinder-ashes, &c. and even be paid something for carrying them away; their waggons are for ever coming from the town empty, and the r lands in general poor. At one place, which is called the Fort, is a heap of exceeding rich manure, which in many towns I could name, would sell for above 100 *l*. and which suffers no other decrease than what high spring tides occasion, in washing part of it away; and it is all brought here in carts, at the expence of the inhabitants.

From *Lynn* I took the road to *Narford*, the seat of *Price Fountain*, Esq; built and furnished by the late Sir *Andrew Fountain*: The house is a good one, but not the object of view so much as the curiosities it contains; amongst which nothing is so striking as the cabinet of earthen ware, done after the designs of *Raphael*; there is a great quantity of it, and all extremely fine. The collection of antique urns, vases, spinxes, &c. &c. is reckoned a good one; but what gave me more pleasure than the venerable remains of this kind, is a small

Small modern Sleeping Venus in white marble, by *Delveau*; which in female softness and delicacy is exceedingly beautiful. The bronzes are very fine; and the collection of prints a capital one. As to pictures, I shall give you the names of a few which pleased me most, as to the masters' names I minute them as they pass at *Narford*, and without answering for their originality. I hint this, because the most pleasing picture in the house, the Virgin and Child, *said* to be by *Guido*, is precisely the same figures, attitude, airs, &c. as Mr. *Butler's Correggio*, as appears by a print of the latter, I have seen in more collections than one. However, whether it is a copy or an original, the colouring is fine, and the air of the head and attitude admirably graceful.

Rubens. A fruit piece by *Snyders*, the figures by *Rubens*; very good.

Albano. Christ taken down from the cross; exceedingly fine, the muscles strongly expressed.

Tintoretto. St. Jerome. The head fine; but the stile dark and unpleasing.

Bloemart. Children of Israel gathering manna; fine.

Old

Old Franc. *Marriage of Cana*; a striking instance of wretched grouping.

Holbein. *Henry VIIIth and Anne Boleyn* at a concert; very fine.

Quin. Matsis. *Two old men's heads*; strongly expressive.

Pelligrino. *Pharoah's daughter finding Moses*; one of the best pieces I have seen of this indifferent master.

I forgot to tell you that the library is a very elegant one for a private gentleman.

I passed into *Suffolk* by way of *Stoak* and *Thetford*; and found a vast quantity of land quite uncultivated, which in this country surprized me much, especially as I was informed marle is in many places to be found, where no use is made of it. The landlord of the Crown at *Stoak* has an acre of burnet, which is, I think, three years old. He sowed it broadcast, kept it perfectly clean from weeds a year, at the expence of above two guineas; but it has answered greatly, for it has every year yielded a great quantity of hay, besides luxuriant food for a great many horses, so early as the month of *February*. It is a very regular crop, and appears to grow very quick.

In the neighbourhood of *Thetford* is an improvement greatly worth seeing ; it is a complete farm, entirely gained from the waste, for so I must call an old sheep-walk. One of the best farmers in *England* (Mr. *Wright*) hired it, and has converted, by means of marle, a vast tract of uncultivated wild into a profitable arable farm ; his son at present enjoys the lease. The soil is very sandy, but marle and clay have rendered it fertile, insomuch, that in years not remarkably dry, he raises as fine crops of rye, coleseed, and oats, as land of five times the rent yields in heavier soils. He has sown likewise some hundreds of acres with sainfoyn, which has throve finely, and yielded considerable crops of hay. This farm consists of near 2000 acres, employs 45 horses, nine servants, and in harvest, fifty in the field. Nine hundred sheep, and 24 cows kept : and all this on a tract of land, which seven years ago was the habitation of nothing but a flock of sheep, not more considerable than what is now kept on the remaining sheep-walk and the artificial grasses.

The duke of *Grafton's* seat at *Euston* is but three miles from this farm ; the park and plantations are well worth your viewing :

ing: they are very extensive and sketched with great taste. Remark particularly the approach to the house from *Bury*; it is exceedingly beautiful.

The road to that town lies for some miles over a wild heath, over-run with bushes, whins, and brakes, the wild luxuriance of whose growth displays evidently enough how greatly it would answer to break it up and convert it into arable farms; for a soil that has strength enough to throw out such vigorously growing weeds, would, if cultivated, produce corn in plenty; add to this, there is a stratum of marle under the whole country*.

Bury is a tolerable well built town, in a dry and healthy situation; many of the streets cutting each other at right angles; but a parcel of dirty thatched houses are found in different streets not far from the center of the town, which has a very bad effect. The country round it towards *London* is good, well wooded, and not a

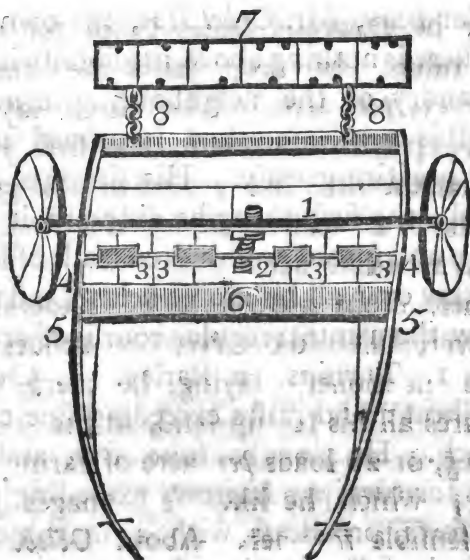
* At *West Stow*, I observed a field of about two acres of carrots, in so driving a sand, that the wind by entering through the bars of the gate, had drove a ridge up; and yet they thrived exceedingly well, and will, I doubt not, be a good crop. They belong to ——— *Edwards, Esq.*

dead

dead flat. The road to *Stowmarket* lies thro' a soil indifferently cultivated, but about a mile from the town it passes through a newly inclosed farm belonging to *John Symonds, Esq;* which is done in a very neat manner; the hedges are all of white thorn, and the banks regularly planted with several sorts of timber trees; the gates remarkably good and all painted. From this farm, which is rented by Mr. *Denton*, I met with nothing worth observing until I reached *Tostock*, a village six miles from *Bury*, in which there is a farm cultivated in a very masterly manner, by a gentleman who lives at *Bury*, Mr. *Orbel Ray*, the owner.

There is nothing above mediocrity in the husbandry of the neighbouring farmers; but this gentleman has improved upon their practice greatly. His soil is a light gravel; the first thing he did with it was to dig and spread an hundred loads of loam and clay over all his arable fields; and then throw them into a regular course of crops; viz. 1. Turnips. 2. Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat: and raises exceeding fine crops of each. He ploughs four, five, and six times for turnips; harrows exceeding fine, and sows broadcast with a machine, of which the following is a sketch. I

(1) The axletree fixed in the wheels, a cog around the middle of which turns (2) other cogs round an iron rod which runs through four copper feed-boxes (3. 3. 3. 3) thirteen holes in each box; and this rod rests in iron grooves (4.4) in the frame (5.5) This rod is six feet six inches long, the breadth of ground it sows at a time: under the boxes is a long trough (6) divided into eight partitions, directly into which the seed falls from the boxes. (7) Is a harrow fixed to the hind part of the frame, by two chains (8.8).



He

He finds from experience that it sheds the seeds infinitely more regular than the nicest hand. In his experience of the turnip husbandry, he has found that it never fails for want of rain, when sown past four o'clock in the afternoon. He hoes the plants out twice, feeds them all off with beasts stalled, for which purpose he has built very convenient sheds; and reckons the mean value of them *per* acre to be 2 *l.* 10 *s.* He gives the turnip land three earths for barley and oats, and gets very clean crops of 5, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$, 6, and even 7 quarters *per* acre. The succeeding crop of clover he generally mows twice for hay, and values the crop on a medium at 2 *l.* 10 *s.* *per* acre. The clover lay he breaks up with one earth, the first year, and harrows in wheat; and of this grain he gets on a medium four and a half, or five quarters *per* acre.

These crops are all very considerable; however, I should observe, that besides the above mentioned claying, he every year manures all his turnip-land, at the rate of 12, 15, or 20 loads *per* acre of farm-yard dung; which he likewise manages in a very sensible manner. About *October* he

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carries in and spreads equally over it two loads of moulds, loam generally; upon these he fodders all his beasts upon the straw of the crop, and the clover hay, by which means all the urine of the cattle is soaked up, and the gutters of the stables and ox stalls are all laid into it; when the winter is over, he stirs the whole up together, very carefully mixing it; generally doubles the quantity brought in, and then it is in good order for the turnip-fields. Was chalk or marle used instead of loam, it would be an infinite improvement.

This gentleman has two experiments of the modern kind, which give me much pleasure; an acre of Lucern, and four of Timothy-grass. The first is in drills, two feet asunder. It was sown last spring two years, cut three times last year; and I found it cutting for the first time this year, an exceeding fine crop, above two feet high; I inquired particularly about the quantity of food it yielded, and found that the exactest calculation, from what was already eat by four cows feeding upon it, was, that it would last them five weeks. The bailey told me, that in his opinion,
it

it would constantly through the summer maintain two cows; if so, the value of it is considerable, and greatly exceeds clover. I cannot, however, avoid remarking, that the intervals were full of weeds: therefore, even this experiment is not fully satisfactory. The four acres of Timothy were sown amongst oats last spring twelvemonth, and I found it standing for hay; it appeared very coarse, but I believe will prove a crop of about 25 Ct. *per* acre. It is not at all earlier than the adjoining pastures.

From *Tostock* I cut across the country to *Lavenham*, by a winding course through *Monks Bradfield*, the *Welnetbam's* and *Bradfield Combust*. I walked over the improvements of the Rev, Mr, *Lord*, rector of *Great Welnetbam*, who has, by means of hollow ditching, and claying, converted an indifferent woodcock brick earth soil, into a most fertile one; insomuch, that he has more than once grown 10 quarters of barley and oats upon an acre, and 5½ of wheat; which are vast crops: one striking particular in his method, is letting his clover lie three years, which, in a strong soil, is rather uncommon, but I believe a good practice.

Before I leave the neighbourhood of *Bury*, I must observe, that I never met with any place around which the farmers had such a spirit of purchasing manures; very ordinary sorts sell at *Bury* at 2 s. 6 d. and 3 s. a waggon load of 80 bushels; I saw all round the town in different places heaps of purchased manures.

LABOUR, &c.

In winter, 1 s. and small-beer.

In spring to harvest, 1 s. 2 d. and beer.

In harvest, 1 s. 8 d. and beer.

Reaping wheat, 4 s. to 5 s. *per* acre.

Mowing spring corn, 1 s. 2 d. ditto.

————Grass, 1 s. 3 d. and 1 s. 4 d.

Hoeing turnips, 4 s. first time, 2 s. 6 d. second.

————Beans, 6 s. first, 3 s. second.

Threshing wheat, 2 s. a quarter.

————Barley and oats, 1 s.

————Clover feed, 5 s. a bushel.

PROVISIONS.

		<i>d.</i>
Bread, - -	2	<i>per</i> lb.
Butter, - -	6	
Mutton, - -	4	
Beef, - -	3	

Veal,

to a hundred and d.

Neal, - - - - 4 *per lb.*

Candles, - - - 7

Wood *per load*, 120 faggots, 18 s.

Coals *per bushel*, laid in, 1 s.

Their course of crops is, 1. Turnips.

2. Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat. 5. Barley or oats; and, 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat.

3. Oats or barley. They plough four or five times for turnips, harrow fine, and use them for all sorts of cattle. For barley they stir thrice, sow three bushels and four *per acre*; and reckon a mean crop at $3\frac{1}{2}$ qr. Their clover they feed with, all sorts of cattle, and particularly hogs, which I mention as a custom not very common: they plough up their clover lays, and harrow in wheat on one earth, sow two bushels, and reckon two quarters and half the medium of their crops. White oats they manage the same as barley; but for black, they plough but once; sow four bushels of each sort, and consider four quarters the mean produce. When they sow beans, which is an irregular crop with them, they plough twice, sow them after the plough, two bushels on ridge work;

so that they come up in double rows on the top of the ridge; hoe them twice; and four quarters the mean produce. For pease they plough but once, sow two bushels; and reckon the medium at $2\frac{1}{2}$ qr. Their soil is in general a red loam, called here a brick earth, and loose; with some fields of clay, others of light gravel; the mean rent is about 12s. an acre. Farms rather small, from 20 l. to 150 l. with a few of 200 l. As to the general œconomy and management, take the following sketch of one: 250 acres.

80 of them grass.

10 horses.

2 men.

2 boys.

5 labourers.

25 cows.

60 sheep.

I forgot to tell you, that they seldom use above two horses in a plough; and always do an acre a day in their stiffest fields.

At *Lavenham* I met with about two acres of *Lucern*, drilled in rows two feet asunder, belonging to the Rev. Mr. *Davy*, the rector; it was sown by his predecessor,

Mr.

Mr. *Squire*, I think, four or five years ago; and answered greatly: Mr. *Davy* found it remarkably serviceable to him last summer twelve-month, when every natural pasture and the clovers were burnt up; but he has some thoughts of ploughing it up, at which I do not wonder, considering the multitude of weeds *suffered to over-run it*.

At *Levenham* is carried on a very considerable manufacture of says and calimancoes; at which the workmen earn on a medium 5 s. 6 d. or 6 s. a week, and many wool-combers who earn 12 s. and 14 s.

The road to *Hadleigh* lies through a rich and well cultivated soil, especially near that town. What induced me to take this road to *Sudbury*, which is out of the way, was the hearing of two Lucern plantations, which I viewed very attentively: one broadcast, and the other transplanted.

The first, of five acres, belongs to the Rev. Dr. *Tanner*, rector of this parish, and prebendary of *Canterbury*. It is four years old, but was renewed by a slight ploughing last year with fresh seed sown over it. I found it on a medium 25 inches high, that which was not cut (for about an acre and half had been mowed at different

E 4 times;)

times;) it was thick and luxuriant, but far from being free of weeds. I remarked many strong ones, and many low trailing ones against the ground: It had been harrowed in Mr. *Rocque's* manner several times. The soil is a fine, dry, light, healthy turnip land; but yields fine wheat, as I have learnt by inquiry: as to the produce, all the intelligence I could get (for the doctor's family were all absent) was, that nine or ten horses, and four or five cows were fed almost constantly upon it. I do not dwell particularly on this part of the experiment, as my information was not absolutely accurate: but it yielded, I could plainly find, an immense quantity of green fodder.

The other experiment of *Peter Newcomb, Esq;* consists of one acre on the side of a hill, the soil seemingly a stiff gravelly loam, with many stones in it; one corner of the field low and wet. The plants were set two years last *August*; the rows three feet four inches asunder, and one foot in the rows. They were cut twice the first year, four times last year; and the first time this year the 17th of *April*. I found on the dry parts of the field, the plants

plants on a medium 13 or 14 inches high, but on the low corner they were mostly dead. The best were not thick nor of a branching luxuriant growth; however the intervals were by no means kept clear of weeds, for the surface, I found in general, nearly covered with them; notwithstanding it was a little loosened by a horse-hoeing. I found it was cut once oftener than Dr. Tanner's, but did not yield near so much food.

This letter is grown to such an immoderate length, that you must allow me to conclude it, by assuring you, how much I am, &c.

Hadleigh,

June 19th, 1767.

Yours

LETTER II.

FROM *Hadleigh* I continued my journey to *Sudbury*, an exceeding dirty, but a great manufacturing town. I made such enquiries as were most likely to acquire some good information relative to their manufactures; and my intelligence ran as follows: they possess a great number of hands, who earn their livelihood by working up the wool from the sheep's back to the weaving it into says and burying-crape, which are their principal articles. The spinning is here a poor business; a stout girl of 15 or 16, not being able to earn above 6 *d.* a day; but the combing is the best of all their employments, yielding from 12 *s.* to 14 *s.* a week; the weavers of the says and burying-crape earn from 7 *s.* to 9 *s.* but the first price the most common; besides these articles they weave ship-flags, which employ the women, and girls of seven or eight years of age, yielding the latter about 2 *s.* 6 *d.* or 3 *s.* a week. The whole manufactory works chiefly for the *London* markets; but some says go down

down their river (which is navigable from hence to *Maningtree*) for exportation.

Effex from *Sudbury* is entered by a high hill, from the top of which is an exceeding fine prospect into *Suffolk*. The country, all the way to *Braintree*, is in general good and rich; letts from 10 s. to 15 s. per acre.

Around *Henningham*, which is six miles from *Sudbury*, hops are much cultivated; more than 200 acres grow near that town, and lett on a medium at about 3 l. an acre, unless hired with a farm; in which case they are lett cheaper. The operations attending a crop, with the expences, are as follows:

	l.	s.	d.
7000 roots, at 5 s. - - -	2	15	0
Planting, - - - - -	0	5	0
Digging and dressing, 12 s. each	1	4	0

Note. This price of 12 s. per acre for digging, and their spit is nine inches, is exceedingly cheap; notwithstanding the looseness of the soil from constantly deep tillage.

Carry over 3 4 0

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	3	4	0
Tying	-	0	12
Always two hoeings, at 4 s. each,			
frequently three,	-	0	12
Stripping,	-	0	14
Picking, drying, and duty	1	10	s.
per Ct. and as they reckon			
6½ Ct. a middling crop, it			
comes to	-	9	15
3000 poles, at 1 l. 1 s. per Ct.			
but as they last six years, only			
the sixth,	-	5	5
	<u>£</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>9</u>

Middling crop, 6½ Ct. and mid. price
5 l. 10 s. a Ct. - therefore, 35 l. 15 s.

Thus we see very large expences attend
an acre of hops, and when all is done,
the crop is very precarious; subject to a
variety of evils and accidents, which *quite*
ruin it in some years; but in many, very
great profit proceeds from them; greater,
I believe, than from any other cultivated
vegetable.

In *Henningham* there is a woollen ma-
nufactory carried on of bays and lays; at
which

which the weavers earn about 7s. a week the year round; and combers 12s. and 14s.

In the neighbourhood of that place the course of crops is, 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Pease. 4. Wheat, if the pease were good. 5. Turnips. 6. Barley. 7. Clover: this is an advantageous course for good ground. They plough three or four times for wheat; sow two bushels an acre, and reap on a medium 3 qrs. and $\frac{1}{2}$. For barley, they plough once or twice, sow four bushels, and get on a medium 4 qrs. and $\frac{1}{2}$. They stir thrice for oats, sow four bushels; and a mean crop they reckon 5 qrs. For pease they give but one stirring, sow two bushels, and get on a medium 4 qrs. For turnips they make their land as fine as possible, ploughing it four times, and they hoe them twice or thrice. They sometimes sow clover; and understand the husbandry of feeding hogs on it, and even cows all summer. They hollow drain their wet lands, often with straw at 2d. a rod, which lasts some years. The proportions of one farm in this neighbourhood, are; acres 90, all arable; rent 60 l. four or five horses

horses kept; 30 sheep; one man, one boy; and three labourers employed.

LABOUR.

In winter, 1 s. a day, and small beer.

In hay-time, 1 s. and beer, and a dinner.

In harvest, 2 s. and beer.

Reaping, 4 s. an acre.

Mowing corn, 1 s. 3 d. and 1 s. 4 d.

———Grass, 1 s. 6 d.

PROVISIONS, &c.

d.

Bread, - - - 2 per lb.

Butter, - - - 6½

Candles, - - - 7

Mutton, - - - 4½

Beef, - - - 4

Veal, - - - 4

Cheese, - - - 3½ made at home.

Coals, - - - 11 per bushel.

Three miles short of *Braintree* is *Gosfield*, well noted for the seat of lord *Clare*, who has an exceeding fine park: but I take the opportunity of mentioning him

him here, chiefly on account of a stroke in agriculture, most unusual in *Essex*; which is the using oxen instead of horses, for all the purposes of draught. His lordship, some years ago, keeping a farm in his hands, and making many improvements in his park, introduced this practice from *Gloucestershire*, by purchasing a team of oxen, with all their geers, and hiring a driver in that country for the instruction of his own people; at the same time he took a plan of a very complete ox-house, with sundry adjoining conveniencies, which he erected at *Gosfield*.

This scheme you may be very sure was highly ridiculed by all the neighbouring farmers, who would as soon believe that an ox could speak as draw; but experience and ocular demonstration convinced them of the contrary; and in one instance remarkably, for a waggon with horses being *sett* in the village, and the ox-team passing by accidentally, the horses were taken off, after much rallying, and the oxen clapt too; who, to the amazement of the beholders, drew it out in triumph.

His lordship used them for the culture of his farm, as long as he kept it in his hands;

and had once near 30 in constant work: he has ever since done all his business with them; such as carting in his park and plantations, carrying timber, and bringing coals, &c. from *Colebecker* for his family. By very exact comparisons between the expences of his oxen and the horses which he formerly kept for the same purposes, he clearly found there was a vast saving by using the first. Their food has constantly been hay in winter, and good grass in summer, without any oats. But notwithstanding the clear superiority, none of the farmers have followed the example; although a number of boys in the parish, and many labourers have gained a full knowledge of their management; and are as expert in driving them and breaking young beasts to the yolk, as any of their men can be with their horses.

You will excuse my being thus particular, in my account of this introduction of oxen into *Essex*; but the novelty of the thing in that county (his lordship's being the only team in it) the ridicule cast on it by the farmers, and the uninterrupted success it met with, has induced me to be more minute than otherwise I should have been.

been. Before I quit *Gosfield*, I must inform you, that Lord *Clare* has a piece of burnet for the use of his deer in winter, which answers extremely well.

From *Gosfield* I proceeded to *Bocking* and *Braintree*, places adjoining, and exceedingly full of manufacturers, who work up fays in general and some druggets. By all the accounts I could gain of the weavers, I found that they earned on an average about 9s. a week; wool-combers about 12s. stout girls, 15 or 16 years old, four-pence or five-pence a day at spinning; and girls of seven or eight 1s. a week for rolling the weavers quills; all these prices are lower than the *Sudbury* ones. They further informed me, that in summer they did whatever husbandry-work they were able, being better paid for it; such as hoeing turnips and wheat, making hay, and harvesting: That the prices of necessaries are as follows: bread, 2d. per lb. mutton, 5d. beef 3½d. and veal 4d. One man who had a wife and four children, informed me that they eat half a bushel of wheat-flour every week.

From *Braintree* to *Chelmsford* the soil is rich and fertile, and the country very

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plea-

pleasant. Their course of husbandry is, in general, 1. Fallow. 2. Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat; and 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Barley; then manure well and wheat again: sometimes beans thrown in, which they sow broad-cast, and hoe twice. For wheat they plough thrice, sow an amazing quantity, from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 bushels, (greater by far than ever I heard of) and reckon 3 qrs. a middling crop. They give two earths for barley; sow three bushels, and get on a medium 3 qrs. For oats they plough thrice; sow three bushels, (as *little* as six bushels of wheat *much*) 3 quarters they reckon the medium. For beans they plough but once; sow two bushels and an half; and get on a medium 3 qrs. and $\frac{1}{2}$, or 4 qrs. They stir their lands twice for pease; sow two bushels and half, hoe them twice, and reckon the mean crop at 5 qrs. In their lighter lands they frequently sow turnips, plough for them twice, hoe them twice, and sow barley after them. They use both foot and wheel-ploughs, frequently with four horses, and do something better than an acre a day. As to the feeding hogs with clover, they know little of the practice, thinking it dangerous. Their dairies

dairies are pretty large; and they reckon the profit of a cow at 5 *l.* a year.

A remarkable particular I observed in their husbandry, was the care with which they drain their wet lands. They make hollow drains, the main ones two feet deep, and the branches 22 inches; they lay some small wood at the bottom, and a good deal of straw upon it, and then cover the whole with earth. The price of this work is two-pence *per* rod and their small-beer. It were much to be wished that this practice was more general, for it is an admirable one, and well deserves imitation. They find their wet lands, and especially those which are flat, to be so difficult to drain with the common water-thoroughs, that their crops are frequently damaged by wet years, unless they lay them dry in this manner.

A farmer who rents 100 *l.* a year, has about 130 acres of land; and such an one requires, upon a medium, twelve-horses: six-score sheep may likewise be kept, and 30 cows: and the number of servants two men and one boy; besides a labourer constantly, and others at busy

times: This is very nearly the state of a farm I examined near *Braintree*.

LABOUR.

In winter, 1 s. 2 d. a day.

In hay-time, 1 s. 6 d. and beer.

In harvest, 2 s. and beer.

Reaping wheat, 8 s. an acre.

Mowing barley, 1 s. 8 d.

———Oats, 1 s. 6 d.

———Grass, 2 s.

Mow and make hay, 5 s. 6 d.

Hoeing turnips, 2 s. 6 d. each time.

———Beans and pease, ditto.

PROVISIONS.

Bread, - - 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.

Butter, - - 6

Candles, - - 7 $\frac{1}{2}$

Cheese, - - 4

Mutton, - - 4

Beef, - - 4

Veal, - - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

A waggon, 20 l.

A cart, 6 l. 6 s.

A plough, 1 l. 10 s.

You will excuse my saying any thing of *Chelmsford*: It is a pretty, neat, and well built town, but the scene of my remarks is the country; and those particulars which

which some will call trifling, and others mean, you must expect me to dwell most upon. I forgot to remark that all the cart horses I saw from *Sudbury* to *Chelmsford*, were of a remarkable large size.

From the latter town I proceeded to *Billericay*; the country very rich, woody, and pleasant, with abundance of exceeding fine landscapes over extensive valleys. The husbandry, I apprehend, not equal to that in use about *Chelmsford*; for their principal course is fallowing for wheat, then sowing oats and laying down with clover and ray-grass; which is a very faulty custom on land which, like this, lets in general from 15s. to 20s. an acre; nor did I see many good crops. The principal manure they use about *Billericay*, is chalk, which they fetch in waggons from *Graves*, and costs them in general by the time they get it home 5½d. or 6d. a bushel: they seldom use it alone, but mix it with turf fresh dug, and farm-yard dung, and then lay it on for wheat, now and then for turnips, which are, however, seldom sown in that neighbourhood. All this manure is sometimes spread at the expence of 10l. an acre.

The prices of provisions at Billericay,

	s.	d.	
Wheat, - -	7	0	a bushel,
Beef, - -	-	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	per lb.
Mutton, - -	-	5	ditto.
Lamb, - -	-	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	ditto.
Veal, - -	-	5	ditto.
Butter, - -	-	8	ditto.

From *Billericay* towards *Tilbury*, the husbandry continues much the same: But one thing is very observable, and that is, the prodigious size of the farms; seven, eight, nine hundred, and one thousand pounds a year, are not uncommon. Mr. *Finch* of *Billericay* rents 1300 *l.* a year; and the famous farmer Mr. *Button* of *Mucking*, near *Horndon*, farms of his own, and what he hires together 2500 *l.* a year; and it was said, he was going to increase it by purchasing 200 *l.* a year more, which he would take into his own hands. He keeps 102 horses. The rent of these large farms runs generally about 10 *s.* an acre.

You recollect my sentiments concerning the *Norfolk* farms; but these in point of size far exceed them. Indeed I thought *Norfolk* had been, of all other counties, the most famous for large farms, but this
in-

intelligence undeceived me : An *Essex*-man would hear you with scorn talk of any farmers being equal to theirs ; and they certainly have some reason for this boasting. Many of the occupiers in what they call the hundreds, possessing three, four, and five hundred pounds a year *of their own*, besides what they rent of others. As to the public good, these *exceeding* large farms are not of the greatest advantage : but here a distinction is to be made between the *Norfolk* ones and these ; for the latter being situated in a rich soil, might be split into smaller farms, to infinitely greater benefit than the former, which require each a considerable stock of sheep. The *Norfolk* farms likewise, having been nearly all sheep-walks, could only be improved by marle, and of course by those who were able to take large tracts of land ;—for it is demonstrable, that had these walks been cut into *small* farms, they never would have been improved, the expence is so great. Large farms therefore have been (and will be, as to all future improvements) in that country, of as great public, as well as private benefit, as *smaller* ones in any other can be. Whatever land lets for ten shil-

lings and upwards, without any such improvement as the *Norfolk* marling, it is proof sufficient that it *might be* rented in small quantities.

Of all the cursed roads that ever disgraced this kingdom, in the very ages of barbarism, none ever equalled that from *Billericay* to the *King's-head* at *Tilbury*. It is for near 12 miles so narrow, that a mouse cannot pass by any carriage; I saw a fellow creep under his waggon to assist me to lift, if possible, my chaise over a hedge. The rutts are of an incredible depth—and a pavement of diamonds might as well be sought for as a quarter. The trees every where over-grow the road, so that it is totally impervious to the sun, except at a few places: And to add to all the infamous circumstances, which concur to plague a traveller, I must not forget the eternally meeting with chalk-waggons; themselves frequently stuck fast, till a collection of them are in the same situation, and twenty or thirty horses may be tacked to each, to draw them out one by one.

After this description, will you—can you believe me when I tell you, that a
turn,

turn-pike was much solicited for by some gentlemen, to lead from *Chelmsford* to the Ferry at *Tilbury* Fort, but opposed by the Bruins of this country—whose horses are tore in pieces with bringing chalk through those vile roads. I do not imagine that the kingdom produces such an instance of detestable stupidity; and yet in this tract are found numbers of farmers, who cultivate above 1000 *l.* a year. Besides those already mentioned, we find a *Skinner* and a *Towers* who each rent near 1500 *l.* a year, and a *Read* almost equal; but who are all perfectly well contented with their roads.

I forgot to tell you, that near *Horndon*, on the summit of a vast hill, the most astonishing prospect that ever was beheld by human eyes, breaks almost at once upon one of the dark lanes. Such a prodigious valley, every where painted with the finest verdure, and intersected with numberless hedges and woods, appears beneath you, that it is past description; the *Thames* winding through it, full of ships, and bounded by the hills of *Kent*. Nothing can exceed this amazing prospect, unless it be that which *Hannibal* exhibited

to

to his disconsolate troops, when he had them behold the glories of the *Italian* plains ! If ever a turnpike should lead through this country, I beg you will go and view this enchanting prospect, though a journey of 40 miles is necessary for it. I never beheld any thing equal to it in the West of *England*, that region of landscape.

King's Head, Tilbury,

June 24, 1767.

L E T T E R I I I.

TILBURY Fort yields not a moment's amusement in recompense for the hours you may probably wait for the ferry : We were tolerably lucky, and after much bullying and some fair words, reduced the wretched time of waiting to about an hour. *Gravesend* is a detestable exhibition of the worst out-skirts of *London*. — It is *Wapping* in miniature. I had some business which led me to *Thong*, and was amazed to find that there was no way of getting at it but through narrow lanes, as over-grown and dark as those of *Essex* : this parish and *Shorn* contains as much romantic variety of landscape as ever I beheld ; the hills are wild, steep, and almost covered with wood, and rise into bold variations, between the breaks of which, vast prospects of the valley beneath, and the *Thames* winding through it, are every now and then seen ; and from the tops of some of them most prodigious prospects of the whole country at large. The soil about these hills is in general
fandy

fandy and gravel, but had extreme good crops of oats on it, and tolerable ones of barley, with very fine clover and ray-grass: Some hop-grounds, but none equal to many others I saw. Mr. Neale at *Thong* had some drilled pease, which looked very well, and about two acres of burnet on a fandy gravel; it had been fed, but made no appearance. The land lets in general about these hills for 8s. an acre; including the wild parts of them, which are overrun with gorse and whins.

Between *Shorn* and the turning off to *Gravesend* in the way to *London*, I observed two fields of exceeding fine broad-cast Lucern; one of them of several growths, having been cut at various times for feeding cattle in racks; and from the number of oats among it, I apprehend it was sown with that grain last year, and those appearing when I saw it, sprung from the scattered ones. It pleased me greatly to see such fertile land put to this use, for the farmer must have a very good opinion of this grass to apply such rich soils to its production; land letting here from 20s. to 30s. an acre. I observed many very fine crops of sainfoine mowing for hay,
between

between the latter named place and *Dartford*. The soil all chalk. The road made entirely of it; and by means of attending it well, is kept very free from holes, and is hard and level. The beauty of all this country (which, in respect of hill and dale, is finely variegated) is wretchedly hurt by the abominable custom of stripping up all the trees; insomuch, that they look like hop-poles. This vile custom is attended with not a single advantage; all the timber is ruined, and a very small quantity of faggot-wood gained. I observed scarce any thing but elms. The beans and wheat were exceeding good, and the oats very forward.

Between *Dartford* and *Shooter's-bill*, at *Bexley*, the husbandry is very good: I observed it particularly, and gained some information, which is worth minuting. The land lets from 16 s. to 40 s. per acre; but in general about 20 s. One farmer in *Bexley* hires 200 acres, at guineas. Their course of husbandry is, 1. Pease; the pods for the *London* market, got off time enough to give two ploughings for, 2. Turnips. 3. Barley or oats, generally the former. 4. Wheat; but sometimes clover is sown with

with the barley, and then the wheat succeeds that. They reckon a good common crop, six or seven quarters of wheat and spring-corn; which is very considerable, and plainly proves the land to be very good; otherwise such a quantity of wheat could never be got after barley; but the introduction of clover must be a better course; for that grass mowed twice would abate any rankness in the ground, which threatened a laid crop of wheat. There is much sainfoin sown; many fields of which produce three tuns of hay *per* acre. Day-labour about that neighbourhood, is, in general, 1*s.* 6*d.* a day and beer the year round, except at harvest, then 2*s.* and board: and the price of ploughing *per* acre, 8*s.*

PROVISIONS.

	<i>d.</i>
Bread, - - -	2 <i>per</i> lb.
Butter, - - -	8
Beef, - - -	4½
Mutton and Veal, -	5
Cheese, - - -	4

From *London* some business called me to several villages between *Barnet* and *Hatfield* in

in *Hertfordshire*: The country there is chiefly grass, the corn grounds by no means carried such good crops as I expected; but the soil is in many places stoney and gravelly. Grass is what pays best: it sells frequently for 50 s. 60 s. and 70 s. a load; which is 36 trusses, each 56 lb. Two things here are very bad; their fences and their ploughs, both very material to a farm. The hedges are dead ones; boughs interlaced four feet high in stakes, and white-thorn planted by the side of it, intermixed with fallow stakes, and without any ditches: this practice is a wretched one, for the fallow is so quick a grower as to over-top the thorns and drip them to death, nor is it of any use as a fence itself, growing ragged and open at bottom. In *Suffolk, &c.* every one that is curious in fences, keeps all plants from among the thorns, because none unites with them; and gaps are for ever made in the hedges, by means of taking hold of fallows, hazels, oaks, ashes, or such plants, which are not offensively armed; whereas, a white-thorn fence is impenetrable; and their having no ditches, exposes the young plants entirely to the cattle.

These particulars are not very interesting, but you must accept them instead of those beyond my power to gain: I shall soon set out from *London* for the West of *England*, which journey will doubtless afford much matter in my path of observation. In the mean time I remain sincerely,

Your's, &c.

LABOUR.

Winter, 1 s. 6 d. and beer.

Hay, 2 s. and beer.

Harvest, 2 s. 6 d. and ditto.

LETTER IV.

I TOOK the *Uxbridge* road to *Oxfordshire*; very flat and unpleasant it is; but the richness of the soil and culture makes amends for the dulness of the country. About *Alton* I observed many crops of pease and beans drilled, and kept perfectly clean from weeds: This culture, with respect to pease, I remarked particularly, as several of the crops were young, and yet *supported themselves*, which I have frequently found much wanting, in the cleaning drilled pease; they are generally so very weak, that they fall into the intervals, so as to interrupt the hoeing, and let weeds rise easily through them: but some of those young crops stood so upright, that I remarked it with surprize: and on examining them, found a little ridge of moulds drawn up in an exceeding neat manner to their roots to support them: I was particularly attentive to this piece of husbandry, as I had never seen it perfectly practised before.

In the neighbourhood of *Hays*, is found two kinds of soil; one very heavy, and the
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other

other light turnip-land. The former they use chiefly for wheat and beans, but sow them in a course peculiar to themselves; they fallow for wheat, and after that sow beans; whereas in land strong enough to yield those crops, beans should be the fallow, by means of thorough good cleaning, and wheat succeed them; which is the practice in the richest parts of *Essex*. Very few oats or barley are sown in these heavy tracts. In the lighter ones their method is, 1. Turnips. 2. Barley, or 3. Clover. 4. Wheat; than which none can be better.

Prices in this neighbourhood run very high: day-labour in winter, is 1 s. 6 d. and small-beer; in hay-time, 2 s. and beer, and 2 s. 6 d. in harvest and beer; but the latter work is chiefly done by the piece. Hoeing beans, from 3 s. to 5 s. an acre; which is the cheapest work they do. Reaping wheat *per acre*, 8 s. grass, 2 s. 6 d.

P R O V I S I O N S.

		<i>d.</i>
Butter, -	-	8 <i>per lb.</i>
Beef, -	-	5
Mutton, -	-	5

3

Veal,

Veal, - - - 5 *d.* per lb.

Bread, - - - 2

They plough here in general with four horses, and all in a line; a man to hold the plough, and a very stout lad to drive, and do one acre a day. The breed of hogs, the true *Chinese*, large, broad, and short legged, from *London* quite to *Wickham*.

There is nothing more remarkable than the great variations in rustic prices, without any apparent cause. I have just given you those about *Hays*, whereas they totally change in five or six miles; for on examining them again, I found them as follows; reaping wheat, 5 *s.* 6 *s.* and 7 *s.* per acre; mowing oats, 1 *s.* barley, 1 *s.* 2 *d.* day-labour in winter, 1 *s.* in *June* and *July*, 1 *s.* 2 *d.* in harvest, 1 *s.* 6 *d.* and board; and beer to all: these for 16 or 17 miles from *London* are very low. Thrashing I found was all done by the day; a day's work at which, was reckoned four bushels of wheat; six of barley; and eight of oats. The soil of the country grew poorer as I advanced from *Hays*; rents I found run in general, from 7 *s.* to 10 *s.* and 6 *d.*

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their

their middling crops about three quarters of wheat; as much of barley, and about four of oats. Ploughing likewise varied in this short distance considerably; for all the horses I observed at plough were harnessed in couples, four to each.

About *High Wycomb* the farms are in general large, most keep more teams than one: Mr. *Betten* of *Handicross* has 1100 acres of arable land. To speak of a large farm here, or in some other countries, is a very different affair: here, five horses are always used to a plough, oftentimes six, with two men, one to hold and the other to drive: and an acre of ground they reckon a good day's work: if of fallowing, half; or three-fourths of an acre. I do not write these particulars without astonishment: I am so used to observing exceeding strong soils in *Suffolk* ploughed up at the rate of an acre a day by one man and a pair of horses, that I cannot give you these vile remnants of barbarity without a great degree of disgust; had I offered to a *Buckinghamshire* farmer to send him a servant that would plough as in *Suffolk*, he would have laughed in my face at my absurdity.

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The course of husbandry in this neighbourhood is the best; turnips, barley, clover, wheat; often barley after wheat: this again is another poof, that the soil does not require more than a pair of horses to plough; for turnips are never sown but in soils that are somewhat *light*: one remark, however, I must make, and that is, the fields are very hilly. Day-labour here, is out of proportion; 1 s. in winter, and 2 s. in *July*:—two guineas and board *per* month in harvest.

Before I leave this neighbourhood you must allow me to make mention of the noble park of his Grace the Duke of *Portland*, at which is peculiarly fortunate in situation, by means of contrast. The country adjoining is very flat, not well cultivated, and has few of those elegant varieties which are pleasing to the traveller; but this happy spot, which his Grace has chosen for his park, contains not a level acre; it is composed of perpetual swells and slopes, set off by scattered plantations, disposed in the justest taste. The extent is very great, and on the whole appears to be one of the finest parks I remember to have seen.

Beech woods are remarkably prevalent in the tract of country between *Wycomb* and *Tetford*; but they are all small, appearing to be little better than under-wood: the whole country is very hilly, and the soil little else but chalk. The first thing which struck me on leaving *Wycomb-town*, was the noble seat of lord *le Despencer*: the house is by no means equal to the beauty of the ornamented environs. The situation is very agreeable on an eminence rising from a most elegant river, which meanders through the park and gardens, with the happiest effect; before the house it forms an elbow, which looks like a large lake, and on which floats a ship, completely rigged, with a long-boat, and another lying along-side; her masts rising above the adjoining trees, in a manner which adds greatly to the landscape. On the summit of a hill, which over-looks the whole country, his lordship has built a new church, pretty much in the old taste; and very near it, a mausoleum; — a sexangled open wall of flints, with stone ornaments, and a row of tuscan pillars. On the inside runs a garter of stone around it, and two of the six divisions
are

are occupied with dedications to the late Earl of *Westmoreland*, and Lord *Melcomb*. There is not much to commend in the taste of this building; but it is either unfinished, or the idea very incomplete, and the situation is such, as to appear from many points of view to be one building with the church, which has by no means a good effect. One circumstance, however, must not be forgot, and that is, was St. *Paul* to preach in this church, he must furnish the neighbours with more than mortal legs to become his auditors; for it was with the utmost difficulty I could gain the top; and you know pretty well that I am not wanting in activity, for an unwieldy size was never a misfortune of mine. This church, therefore, I consider, much in the same stile as *Beatrice* does *Don Pedro* for a husband; fit only for festivals, with another for common use—too elevated for every day.

Before I leave *Wycomb*, I must tell you what I saw at an ingenious wheel-wright's, a new invented horse-hoe, for ploughing between the rows of pease and beans, invented by captain *Lloyd of Braden*. I am

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by

by no means a drafts-man, but I will present you with such a sketch as I took:



The length of the beam is nearly that of a common plough; the share flat in the middle, and to the point, but rising about four inches high on each side, to throw a furge of moulds on each side. The contrivance has merit, and the price of the whole so low as twenty shillings.

From *Wycomb* up to *Stoke*, is through perpetual woods of beech; the soil all chalk; the crops of corn in general clean and good, but the turnpike-road declined greatly, infomuch, that I could scarcely believe myself in one; for near *Tetford*, they mend entirely of stone, dug out of the hills, which are like quarries, and are in large flakes; so that in those places, which are just mended, the horse hobbles over them, as if afraid of breaking his legs.

About

About *Stoke* the land lets for 10 s. an acre. Their course of husbandry, with accidental exceptions, is, 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Spring-corn. 4. Clover, two years. 5. Fallow. Good middling crops are, of wheat, three quarters *per* acre; of barley 5; of oats 4. Prices of work I think remarkably low. Day-labour all the year, except at harvest, is 1 s.

In wheat-harvest, 2 s. and beer.

—Spring-corn, ditto, 1 s. 6 d. and beer. Reaping wheat *per* acre, 5 s.

Mowing barley, 1 s.

—Oats, 10 d.

—Grass, 1 s. 4 d. and 1 s. 6 d.

The prices of provisions, however, are somewhat lower than before :

Mutton, - - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. *per* lb.

Beef, - - 4

Veal, - - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Butter, - - 7

Six horses to a plough, and do an acre a day; sometimes not so much.—From the top of *Stoken-bill* you have one of the most extensive prospects I ever beheld; but not so rich and beautifully diversified as that I mentioned near *Billericay*. In the
vale

vale the soil is all chalk, and does not carry above 7 s. an acre.

The country from *Tatford* to *Oxford* is extremely disagreeable, barren, wild, and almost uninhabited. The road called by a vile prostitution of language, a turnpike, but christened, I apprehend, by people who know not what a road is : it is all of chalk-stone, of which loose ones are every where rolling about to lame horses. It is full of holes, and the rutts very deep; and withal, so narrow, that I with great difficulty got my chair out of the way of the *Witney* waggons, and various machines which are perpetually passing. The tolls are very dear, and vilely unreasonable, considering the badness of the roads. Husbandry is by no means perfect here : in the neighbourhood of *Witney* there is a great variety of soils ; some I take to be very rich, from their rent, which is 50 s. and 3 l. an acre, while under tillage, (which is but for a year or two) and 20 s. and 25 s. when laid down again. But in the same neighbourhood, much inclosed lands lett for 20 s. and the common fields from 7 s. to 12 s. Their course of husbandry is different from most ; 1. Wheat. 2. Beans.

3. Barley. 4. Fallow. 5. Barley. 6. Clover, with variations. They set their beans with a dibble, and keep them clean by hoeing. Foot ploughs are here used.

DAY - LABOUR.

All winter, and to hay-time, 1 s.

In hay-time, 1 s. 6 d.

In harvest, 2 s.

No beer at any time.

Hoeing beans, 2 s. an acre: this is lower than ever I heard of.

Dibbling them, 1 s. 8 d. a bushel.

Provisions as follows:

Mutton, - - 4 d. and $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

Beef, - - - 4

Butter, - - - 7

It is remarkable, that very few women and children are employed in this country in manufactures, most of them work with the farmers; but some few spin. They reckon 3 qrs. of wheat a very good crop, and 4 of barley. The hogs are here all fed by the dairies; never with clover.

To be so particular here on the city of Oxford as its contents justly require, would not be consistent with the purport of these letters, for they would fill a volume: the country, not towns, is the scene of my observations; and

and though I sometimes vary from that plan, yet I must not venture on so strong a deviation as this celebrated city would require. However, do not pass through it, without remarking the front of *Queen's-College*, and the *Radcliff Library*; which are modern pieces of architecture and beautiful. In the antique style many colleges present themselves, but they are by no means equal to some ancient cathedrals in the same gothic taste; which taste, in comparison with the *Grecian* architecture, is vile and barbarous. From *Oxford* we took the road to *Blenheim*; that celebrated palace, which has been by some so excessively abused, and so praised by others. The front is a clutter of parts, so distinct, that a gothic church has as much unity; and, withal, a heaviness in each part, which is infinitely disgusting. You enter first the grand hall, which is the largest, and I think without comparison, the finest I have seen in *England*: but in this room, as in most others, there is something in the dimensions which disgusts at first sight; are 53 by 44, and 60 high: this vast height, besides the disagreeable effect it has, in itself, takes off prodigiously from
the

the appearance of largeness in the area at bottom. The side against the saloon, enlarges itself considerably in the middle: in the center is the saloon door; and on each side some very large and magnificent corinthian pillars, in a good taste and proportion; and over them a gallery, which is all done in a really grand style; and not a gallery stuck to the wall, like an overgrown shelf, as at *Houghton* and *Wilton*; or turned into the range of a bath, as at *Holkam*: It would take a cube of an hundred feet to have a gallery totally around a hall, in a just taste, like this at *Blenheim*; and therefore it is infinitely preferable to add an additional space to one side of the room, for a gallery, and the pillars to support it, especially as they have a very fine effect fronting, as you enter the hall. By means of its being in the nature of a recess, and not projecting into the room, there is no abruptness or deficiency in its not being continued around the whole. Nothing offends in this room, but the excessive height.

The saloon is 44 by 33, and 45 high; which is the largest I have seen: proportion is again destroyed by height; otherwise,

wife, this room would, like the hall, be infinitely finer. The door-cases are of marble, and exceedingly magnificent; but a stone floor for a saloon is manifestly improper. The suite of rooms to the left, are as follows:—Drawing-room, 28 square, this is filled with pictures by *Rubens*:

Holy Family.

Roman Charity.

Virgin and Child.

Flight into *Egypt*.

Offering of the wise-men; old men's heads exceeding fine.

Lot driven out of *Sodom*.

Our Saviour blessing the children.

Paracelsus; amazingly fine.

Pope *Gregory*.

The breakfast-room, 24 square; here we find *Silenus*, and *Andromeda*, two pictures, both by *Rubens*; and fine.

Woman taken in adultery.

Circumcision.

Old man; all three by *Rembrandt*, and very fine, especially the first two.

The Duke's dressing-room, 24 square.

The passage-room.

Be-

Besides these apartments, others were occupied by the family, which we could not see; on the other side of the Saloon,

A drawing-room, 35 by 25.

Another 35 by 25.

Another 25 square: here is the death of *Seneca*, by *Luca Giordano*; without any expression of character, or the least trace of imagination.

Edward VI. by *Holbein*.

Destruction of Troy, by *Brughi*.

The chimney-pieces and glass-frames in all the rooms hitherto mentioned, are in a very heavy taste.

The library 180 by 43 in the principal part, the middle; and 30 at each end. This is the noblest room applied to this use I ever saw: at one end is a very fine statue of *Queen Anne*, in white marble, by *Rysbrack*; the front drapery of which is exceeding good. The chimney-pieces are likewise in a better taste than any in the house. The marble pilasters around it, are by no means ornamental enough; not proportionally so with the other parts; they should certainly have been corinthian pillars.

The

The chapel is handsome, but has nothing striking in it, except a very magnificent monument of the duke and dutchess, and their two children.

There are no bed-chambers on the first-floor. I should observe to you, that those rooms in which I have not mentioned pictures, are hung with as fine *Brussels* tapestries, as you ever beheld ; containing the history of the great duke's campaigns ; and in design and colours are really admirable.

Blenheim, upon the whole, can answer to none, who know it to be the monument of a nation's gratitude : a pile raised at the expence of the public, and meant to be great and magnificent, yet every thing that the occasion called for, might, and would have been effected, had not the execution fell to such a miserable architect as *Vanburgh* ; whose buildings are monuments of the vilest taste.

The park is very extensive, and well planned ; the water exceedingly beautiful ; but the Rialto, as it is called, over it, a most miserably heavy, ungraceful piece of architecture. One circumstance I shall not omit, which is, the excessive insolence of the porters at the
park-

park-gate, and at that into the court-yard; for I was a witness to their abusing a single gentleman in a very scurrilous manner, for not seeing them after giving the house-porter half a crown for seeing it. The person abused complained aloud to several parties of this impudence, and observed that he had seen most of the great houses in the kingdom, but never knew a *park* or *yard* locked up by gentry who formed such a gauntlet. Him in the court, asserted in an insolent manner, that the gate was his living. I hint these circumstances as a proof, that noblemen of the most amiable character, like the Duke of *Marlborough*, have, unknown to them, the real magnificence of their seats tarnished by the scoundrel insolence of the lowest of their servants. The vile custom of not being able to view a house, without paying for the sight, as if it was exhibited by a *show-man*, is detestable; but when it extends to double and quadruple the common fees and impudence; the exorbitancy calls aloud for that public notice to be taken of it, which its meanness so well deserves.

Woodstock is famous for a manufacture of polished steel and gloves, but does not

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em-

employ above twenty or thirty hands in the former; and forty or fifty in the latter. Journey-men in the steel work earn from 15 s. to two guineas a week; and men and women by making gloves, about 8 s. and 9 s. a week.

Between *Woodstock* and *Witney*, about *Hanborough*, the husbandry I found much the same as the last I mentioned. 1. Wheat. 2. Beans. 3. Barley. 4. Fallow. When beans are not sown, then clover is sown among the wheat in spring. They plant all their beans, and hoe them generally twice. They use both foot and wheel-ploughs, all with four horses. Their manure they use entirely for the wheat and barley crops. A remarkable manner of estimating crops here, is by the return in proportion to the seed; wheat, they reckon five or six bushels for one, and as they sow three, it amounts of course to about 2 qrs. or 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$. Barley, 3 quarters. Beans, 3 and $\frac{1}{2}$.

They have no dairies here, and even feed their hogs in summer with beans; which is as curious a stroke in husbandry as I have met with since I left home. The soil is generally a clay, with some veins of sharp

sharp gravel; letts from 9 s. arable, to 40 s. grafs, an acre. Day-labour is very reasonable.

Winter and spring, 1 s.

Hay-time, 1 s. 2 d.

Harvest, 1 s. 6 d.

Reaping wheat, *per* acre, 5 s.

Mowing soft-corn, 8 d.

————Beans, 1 s. 9 d.

————Grafts, 1 s. 4 d.

Hoeing beans, 3 s. 6 s. and 4 s. each time.

PROVISIONS.

Mutton, - - - 4½ d. *per lb.*

Butter, - - - 6

Witney is very famous for its woollen manufactory; which consists of what they call *kersey* pieces, coarse bear-skins, and blankets. The two first they make for the *North American* market; vast quantities being sent up the river *St. Lawrence*, and likewise to *New-York*. Their finest blankets, which rise in price to 3 l. a pair, are exported to *Spain* and *Portugal*; but all are sent to *London* first in broad-wheel waggons, of which, four or five go every week. The finest wools they work, come

H 2

from

from *Herefordshire* and *Worcestershire*, and sell from 8 *d.* to 10 *d.* a pound. The coarsest from *Lincolnshire*; they call it dag-locks; they sell for 4½ *d.* per lb. and are used for making the coarse bear-skins. There are above 500 weavers in this town, who work up 7000 packs of wool annually. Journeymen in general, on an average, earn from 10 *s.* to 12 *s.* a week, all the year round, both summer and winter; but they work from four to eight, and in winter by candle-light; the work is of that nature, that a boy of fourteen earns as much as a man. One of seven or eight earns by quilling and cornering, 1 *s.* 6 *d.* and 1 *s.* 8 *d.* a week, and girls the same. Old women of 60 and 70 earn 6 *d.* a day in picking and sorting the wool: a good stout woman can earn from 10 *d.* to 1 *s.* a day by spinning; and a girl of 14, four pence or five pence. They weave according to the season; in winter kerseys and bear-skins ready for shipping in the summer up the *St. Lawrence*; and in summer blankets for home consumption, and *Spain* and *Portugal*. One remarkable circumstance is, that none of the manufacturers ever work for the farmers. The blan-

blankets usually purchased at home, are about 23 s. or 24 s. a pair, ten quarters wide and twelve long; and the corners are wrought for a halfpenny apiece.

PROVISIONS.

		<i>d.</i>
Mutton,	- -	4 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>
Beef,	- -	5
Veal,	- -	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Bacon,	- -	8
Butter,	- -	6 and $6\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>



The road from *Witney* to *North Leach* is, I think, the worst turnpike I ever travelled in; so bad, that it is a scandal to the country. They mend and make with nothing but the stone which forms the under stratum all over the country, quite from *Tetsford* the other side of *Oxford*. This stone, which rises in vast flakes, would make an admirable foundation for a surface of gravel; but by using it alone, and in pieces as large as one's head, the road is rendered most execrable. I travelled it with a very low opinion of all the counties and places it leads to: for if they were inhabited by people of fortune and spirit, I

should think they would never suffer such a barbarous method of mending their capital road to subsist.

All the country is open, dull, and very disagreeable, nor does a vigorous culture of the earth make any amends for those unpleasing circumstances; the crops were generally very poor, and mostly full of weeds; a strong proof of bad husbandry; and another equally so, is their fallows being the same. About *Burford* and *Sherborn* their courses of crops are various. Some fallow for wheat. 2. Dibbled pease, 3. Barley: others vary it, 1. Wheat. 2. Beans dibbled, or barley, 3. Pease; this is in the low lands about *Sherborn*; but on the *Cotshill-hills* they take a crop, and lay down with ray-grass and clover. They use all foot ploughs, with one wheel, and four horses in length, plough about an acre a day. The open fields on the hills left in general for about 5 s. or 6 s. an acre, the low meadows about 20 s. They reckon three quarters of wheat to be a very good crop, and as much barley and beans. The farms are in general large, indeed absurdly so, considering the manner of managing them; for the farm-

farm-houses are all in the towns; so that the farmers are at a prodigious distance from their lands: they are in general 2, 3, 4, and 500 a year, at about 5 s. Enclosing by no means flourishes, for from *Tetsford* to *Oxford* enclosures are scarce; and from thence to *North Leach*, few or none. Mr. *Dutton* has planned some at *Sherborn*, but the scheme goes on very slowly. It is amazing that a man of his considerable fortune, can bear to live in the midst of such a vastly extensive property, in its present condition. All this bleak unpleasant country is strong enough for any kind of trees, and might therefore be ornamented with fine plantations, which would yield considerable profit in a country wherein firing is so scarce*. And farm-houses, barns, and all kinds of out-houses might be built on the spot, cheaper, I apprehend, than in any part of *England*; for the stone, which every where lies almost within six inches of the surface, forms the walls and covering (slates) of all the buildings in the country.

* Scarce any wood. Coals brought from *Gloucester* cost at *Sherborn* 25 s. a tun.

The price of labour here is very reasonable.

Winter and spring, 8 *d.* 9 *d.* and 10 *d.* a day.

Summer, 1 *s.*

Harvest, 1 *s.* 8 *d.*

Reaping wheat, 4 *s.* and 5 *s.* an acre.

Mowing barley and oats, 6 *d.* and 9 *d.*

Dibbling beans, 5 *s.*

Hoeing ditto twice, 5 *s.*

Thrashing wheat, 2 *s.* per quarter.

———— Barley, 1 *s.*

———— Oats, 10 *d.*

———— Beans, 1 *s.*

PROVISIONS.

Butter 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* The dearth of this article must be owing to nine-tenths of the country being arable.

Mutton, 4 *d.*

Beef, 4 *d.*

About *North Leach* they sow much sainfoine; they prepare for it by turnips, and sow it with oats, and mow it every year for about ten; getting generally a tun, or a tun and an half of hay from it.

Between *North Leach* and *Frog-mill*, the country improves continually, until it becomes

becomes what may really be called fine. About *Stow*, the seat of Lord *Chedworth*, I observed them for the first time ploughing with oxen, and to my great indignation, eight large ones yoked to a plough, and skimming up the surface about three inches deep; which the ploughman with a very grave face called *stiff work*. It was a sainfoine lay, that had been pared and burnt about a month before, half an inch deep: it was turning up for turnips; the ashes laid but thin, I should not imagine above two bushels to a square rod. The price of paring, burning, and spreading the ashes, varies from 14 s. to 20 s. an acre. This is very cheap; such an operation would, in the eastern parts of the kingdom, come at least to three or four pounds an acre: such is the force of any practice being the custom of the country!

About *Shipton* day-labour used all winter to be 8 d. 9 d. and 10 d. a day; but the last the farmers raised it to 1 s. for the first time on account of the dearness of provisions, and give the men 1 s. 2 d. in the spring; 1 s. 6 d. in mowing time, and 1 s. 8 d. at harvest for five weeks. Oxen are pretty much used; I found they rec-

reckoned them something cheaper than horses, but that horses did their work better. In summer they feed them in both common and artificial grasses; and in winter seldom give them any thing besides good straw, on which they work them: they put them to work at three years old, and continue them at it till five. The ploughs are here very clumsy; the beams ten feet long, and all have wheel coulter.

From *Frog-mill* to *Crickly-hill*, which leads into *Gloucester* vale, the beauty of landscape is great. Six miles from the former, from the top of an hill, is seen to the right a most prodigious prospect, over an extensive vale, bounded by *Cheltenham* hills, which seem to tower quite to the clouds; the inclosures appear in a bottom under you, and are very distinct. On the whole, it is inferior only to that amazing one of *Billericay*. All this country is full of the beauties of landscape; the romantic spots of *Crickley-hill* are exceedingly fine, or rather the whole forms a complete piece of sublime nature, and is well worthy of attention from those whose nerves will suffer them to relish those sorts of objects.

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The husbandry of this tract does not materially differ from the preceding ones; however, I shall present you with the particulars I gained a knowledge of; and as to a repetition of some particulars, I know you will excuse them, who are sensible that I had better dwell in tautologies of that nature, than neglect giving you particular information. Their course of crops is,

1. Barley. 2. Clover for two years.
3. Wheat. 4. Pease. They reckon two quarters a middling crop of wheat, and the same of oats, and of barley three. Rents run from 6 s. an acre to 12 s. but in general 6 s. or 7 s. The farms above hill are large; from two to three hundred a year, and some more: but in the vale of *Gloucester* they are much less. What grass they have they mow; very few beasts are grazed, and but few dairies, except in the vale, where they have all that fine breed of hogs, which at *Barnet* market are called the *Shropshires*; with exceeding long carcasses, and long slouching ears, which almost trail upon the ground, to make way for their noses. Sainfoine is much sown in all this country, and lasts generally about ten years, some longer, and their

method

method of breaking it up, as well as sheep-pastures, after they have laid about ten years, is by paring and burning; they take off the surface about half an inch thick, and plough in the ashes for turnips, sometimes for wheat. The price of this work is something under twenty shillings an acre. Oxen are much used for all the purposes of husbandry; never less than six in a plough, frequently eight. They are reckoned the most profitable by some farmers, and horses by others; but it is generally agreed, that when a man keeps two teams, it is ever the most profitable to have one of them of oxen. Day-labour is exceedingly cheap:

In winter, &c. to hay-time, 8*d.* 9*d.* and 10*d.* the stoutest fellows often want work for 9*d.* and cannot readily get it.

In hay-time, for mowing, 1*s.* and 1*s.* 2*d.*

In harvest, 1*s.* 8*d.*

Reaping wheat *per* acre, 4*s.* and 5*s.*

Mowing spring corn, 10*d.* and 1*s.*

Thrashing wheat, 2*s.* a quarter.

—————Barley, 1*s.*

—————Oats, 10*d.*

A stout waggon costs from 16*l.* to 20*l.* and a plough ironed complete for half a guinea, which is amazing.

P R O V I S I O N S.

	<i>d.</i>	
Beef, -	4	<i>per lb.</i>
Mutton, -	4½	
Butter, -	7	
Bread, rather more than 2 <i>d.</i>		<i>per lb.</i> 5½ <i>lb.</i>
		for 1 <i>s.</i>

There is no manufacture nearer than *Gloucester*; the staple of which city is pins, which employs near 400 hands, of whom a great number are women and children: good hands at pointing and sticking earn from 10*s.* to 12*s.* and 15*s.* a week: children of 8, 10, and 11 years old, earn 2*d.* and 3*d.* a day; but some journeymen do not get more than 7*s.* 8*s.* and 9*s.* a week: the wages in general are good. There are some glass-houses in this city; and a pretty brisk trade carried on by means of the *Severne*, with *Shrewsbury*, &c. and *Bristol*.

P R O-

P R O V I S I O N S.

d.

Bread, - - -	2 per lb.
Butter, - - -	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mutton, - - -	4
Beef, - - -	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 d.
Veal, - - -	3
Bacon, - - -	8
Candles by the fingle pound, 7 d. if by three's, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	

You must allow me here to put a
period to this letter.

Adieu, Sir; believe me,

Yours,

Newnham, Monmouthshire,

July 2, 1767.

L E T T E R V.

I WAS infinitely surprized to find the same stony, hard, rough, and cursed roads, miscalled turnpikes, all the way from *Gloucester* to *Newnham*, which is 12 miles: it is all a narrow lane, and most infamously stony; it is the same stone as the other side of the *Severne*, but much harder, and consequently more jolting, and cutting to the horses feet; nor is it so much as level, but rutts all the way; and what is remarkable, I found by them, that they build their waggons with their wheels full three inches nearer to each other than in the eastern counties, which is surprizing: a *Norfolk* or *Suffolk* waggon could not stir even in this *turnpike-road*.

This line of country is very hilly and picturesque; for the road runs all the way by the *Severne*, which has a bold shore, finely wooded, and breaks upon the view in a very pleasing manner. The land is good, and well cultivated; all inclosed, and lets, the arable for 10 s. and the meadow for 20 s. I was amazed to find that day-labour was much higher in this coun-

country, than on the other side of *Gloucester* :

In winter, 10 *d.* and oftener 1 *s.*

In hay-time, 1 *s.* 6 *d.*

In harvest, 1 *s.* and board and beer.

P R O V I S I O N S.

Bread, - - - 2 *d.*

Butter, - - - 6 *d.*

Mutton and beef, 4 *d.*

From *Newnham* to *Chepstow* the road continues excessively stoney, and made in the same vile manner as that from *Gloucester* ; though here and there is a quarter of a mile that is pretty good : but their method of mending occasions their roads to be so very bad ; this is sufficiently proved by about a quarter of a mile of good road, made by Mr. *Battersea*, against his paddock ; this is done with the same materials, with the only difference of reducing them to very small pieces, not larger than common pebbles, and widening and levelling it. In many places the road is so very narrow, that my chaise with great difficulty got through it without rising on the banks. The whole country
covers

covers a stratum of the same rock, which I first met with near *Woodstock*, and continued regularly from thence to *Chepstow*. But there is one circumstance, which would make the best turnpike in *England* extremely bad to travel, and that is the perpetual hills, for you will form a clear idea of them if you suppose the country to represent the roofs of houses joined, and the road to run across them.

The lands are rich and fertile, and the meadows, especially, very fine. The course of crops on their ploughed ground, is, 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Pease. 4. Oats. 5. Turnips. 6. Barley. 7. Clover and ray-grass. They use oxen chiefly, many farmers keeping no horses, plough with five, six, and sometimes eight, and use only foot-ploughs of a very clumsy construction. They reckon two quarters and an half, a good crop of wheat, and three and an half of barley: about *Lidney*, land at an average lets for 14 s. *per acre*; but in some other places it runs up to 20 s. and more. Day-labour continues dear.

In winter, 1 s.

In spring, 1 s. 2 d.

In harvest, 1 s. and board and beer.

LABOUR

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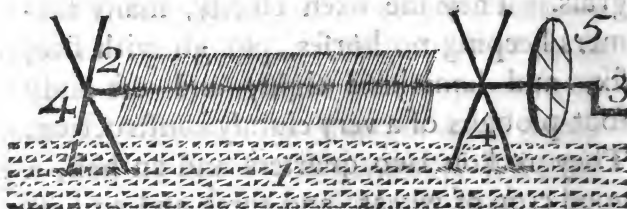
Mow-

Mowing grass, £ s. 8 *d.* per acre, and beer,

PROVISIONS.

		<i>d.</i>
Butter, -	-	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mutton, -	-	4
Beef, -	-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bread, -	-	2
Veal, -	-	3

In all this country, the method of separating the chaff from the corn in dressing it, is by means of turning an engine over it; of which I took the following draft:



1. The corn. 2. The flyers, consisting of pieces of cloth, which are nailed by the edge to the center turning-piece 3. 4. The supporters. 5. A kind of balance-wheel, as I suppose, at least, for I could see no other use in it.

4

Around

Around *Chepstow*, for some miles, there lies a great quantity of very good meadow-ground, which lets from one guinea to two *per* acre; but their arable land is in general about 12 s. They use oxen chiefly for ploughing, six at a time, and often mix them with horses. Labour, very dear; the same as last minuted; or if any difference, rather dearer.

About *Lanvaehers*, which is the midway between *Chepstow* and *Newport*, they have a great mixture of good and bad husbandry. As to all the general œconomy and management of their farms, it is generally bad; for I found them universal in employing supernumerary hands and beasts, without giving their lands a proportionable culture, than which there cannot be a more unprofitable practice: their numbers of each appeared to me pretty much as 12 oxen and 4 or 5 horses to 100 acres of arable land, and 4 or 5 men-servants and boys, and as many labourers most part of the year; which on the whole, ought to be productive of infinitely better, and more garden-like husbandry than is to be met with here: and in the management of their people they are strangely remiss, for

notwithstanding their wages are good, yet I found upon inquiry, that they suffered a surprizing degree of idleness among them, and languid execution of their business: and notwithstanding the soil is tolerably light, and many fields level, yet the ridiculous custom of ploughing with six, and even eight oxen continued here, which strength of cattle never did above an acre a day, and very frequently not above half an acre; and when they carry out their corn to the ports on the *Severn*, which are at a small distance, they don't load six or eight stout oxen with more than 10 sacks, and not often more than eight. All these instances are marks of wretched ideas of general management. But with such marks of miserable œconomy I did not remark any fields of wheat or barley very foul with weeds; but in general clean crops, which is a point of great importance.

Their course of crops is in general as follows, 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Barley. 4. Oats. 5. Ray-grass and clover, from three to eight years, then pare and burn; and 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Barley. 4. Clover, two years. 5. Wheat. The first is miserable husbandry, and the latter bad. Their

Their fallow for wheat consists of three ploughings; they sow two bushels of seed (9 gallon measure) on an acre, and reckon a middling crop between 15 and 20 bushels; they then give two earths for barley, of which they sow three bushels, and consider from 16 to 20 bushels a middling crop. The oats they sow on one ploughing, $3\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to an acre; 15 the medium: when they throw beans in, which is no regular husbandry with them, they sow them on one earth, four bushels to an acre, or if they set them, two, and reckon 15 bushels a middling crop, but never hoe them. If they sow pease, which they likewise throw in irregularly, they give them but one earth to harrow in, but if for under-furrow, then they plough twice; fifteen bushels a medium, but never hoe. Turnips are not commonly sown, not so common as they ought, considering that some of their lands are extremely dry and light, but rich withal; but they never hoe them: their crops, therefore, may easily be supposed without description; they use them chiefly for their sheep; (of which, by the by, they have but few; Mr. *Morris* of *Persfield* had once a thousand, which is thought a wonder)

but some feed their oxen with them. What apples they can have, I have no conception, for they sow above a quart of seed on an acre, and all the culture they give them, is that of a harrowing.

Farms are in general small, from 40 *l.* to 200 *l.* a year, but chiefly from 40 *l.* to 100 *l.* and the rents run from 7 *s.* 6 *d.* to 10 *s.* an acre arable, and about 12 *s.* or 14 *s.* grass; exceeding fine tracts of land are let on an average at 15 *s.* Most of the farmers in this neighbourhood are sensible of the superior profit attending grass-lands, on comparison with arable, and accordingly they have generally more of it than of ploughed land. Lime is the great manure here; they think little can be done without it; insomuch, that every large farm has a kiln for burning lime-stone, of which the whole country has quarries. They generally lay on what they call three dozen; some four or five, that is so many dozen bushels. I was informed in *Hertfordshire*, the farmers go 20 miles, and pay 3 *s.* a dozen for it.

As to the labour, it is here in general 5 *s.* a week.

In spring, 6 *s.*

In

In harvest, 6 s. and victuals; drink withall.

Reaping wheat, 3 s. and 3 s. 6 d.

Mowing grafs, 1 s. 6 d. and a dinner and drink.

But in some villages they are as follows.

In winter to harvest, 2 s. 6 d. a week, and victuals and drink.

In harvest, 5 s. and boys of from 7 to 12 years of age, from 1 d. to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a day.

Reaping, 6 s.

Mowing grafs 10 d. and a dinner every other day and drink.

These variations are unaccountable in so small a distance.

PROVISIONS.

Butter, 6 d.

Whey ditto, for poor people, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 4 d.

Candles, 6 d.

Mutton, 4 d.

Beef, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 4 d.

Veal, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Bread, 2 d.

Coals, 1 s. 3 d. for 2 Ct. laid in, and 3 s. for as much as six horses or oxen can draw from the pit.

Cheese, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

I 4

But

But I know of nothing in this country so cheap, as the articles which form, what the farmers call wear and tear; a new waggon, irons and all complete, with a tire on the wheels near an inch thick, costs but from 8 *l.* to 10 *l.*

A good cart, 4 *l.*

A new plough and irons, from 7 *s.* 6 *d.* to 10 *s.* 6 *d.*

A pair of horse harrows, from 9 *s.* to 1 *l.*

I forgot to remark to you, that altho' they keep a good many hogs here, yet have they no idea of that exceeding profitable method of feeding them entirely with clover, they depend on nothing for them but whey; it is to the dairy they chiefly apply their grass, though many beasts are fatted in there.

But, my dear sir, what am I to say of the roads in this country! The turnpikes! as they have the assurance to call them; and the hardness to make one pay for. From *Chepstow* to the half-way-house between *Newport* and *Cardiff*, they continue mere rocky lanes, full of hugeous stones as big as one's horse, and abominable holes. The first six miles from *Newport*, they were so detestable, and without either direc-

direction-posts, or mile-stones, that I could not well persuade myself I was on the turnpike, but had mistook the road ; and therefore asked every one I met, who answered me, to my astonishment, Ya-as. Whatever business carries you into this country, avoid it, at least, till they have good roads: if they were good, travelling would be very pleasant ; for cultivated hills are of all other tracts of country the most picturesque, and most of these hills (which in more level countries, would be called mountains) are cultivated to the very tops, and cut into very beautiful inclosures by quick hedges. I must, however, allow that the last sixteen miles to *Cowbridge* they are exceeding good ; the stones bound firmly together, no loose ones, nor any rutts.

Around *Newport*, though at no great distance from the last named place, I found a variation in some articles, which is worthy minuting : their course of crops is, 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Barley. 4. Clover, two years. 5. Wheat. They have but a small proportion of grass to their arable lands, and use oxen in the cultivation ; generally fix to a plough, which scarcely do an acre a day. For
wheat.

wheat they plough four times, and reckon 15 bushels a middling crop. For barley they plough three or four times, sow three bushels, and reckon 15 a middling crop. For oats they plough but once; sow $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, and 15 the medium. They plough likewise but once for beans, and in common never hoe them: but Mr. *Kemmish* of *Newport*, has introduced the method of setting them in rows, and keeping them clean by hand-hoes. Their culture of turnips is ridicule itself; for they plough but once, and drag in the seed with ox-drag, then harrowing, and never hoe; the crop may be guessed at. Farms in general run from 15*l.* to 150*l.* a year; and the rent of arable-land from 5*s.* to 12*s.* an acre; and of grafs from 7*s.* to 35*s.* Labour the cheapest I have any where yet met with.

All the year round, 10 *d.* a day.

Mowing *per* acre, 1*s.* 8 *d.* and dinner and beer. This is out of all proportion.

An ox-boy to drive, 4 *d.* a day.

P R O V I S I O N S.

Bread, - - - 2 *d.* *per* *lb.*

Butter, - - - 5

Mut-

d.

Mutton, -	-	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Beef, -	-	4
Veal, -	-	2
Coals <i>per</i> bushel,	$3\frac{1}{2}$,	10 gall. measure.
Cheese, -	-	$3\frac{1}{2}$

About *Cowbridge* and *Bridgend* in *Glamorganshire* the husbandry is the most imperfect I ever met with; and totally contrary to the most common ideas in more informed counties. To give you some notion of their management, let me inform you, that some farmers keep two, three, and four hundred sheep, and yet never fold them; which is so extravagantly stupid, that I was astonished at it: About *Bridgend* there are many farms which consist of a very light sand, especially near *Cantillon*, and yet no turnips are sown: one farmer from *England*, in the latter parish, sowed two acres, and was at great pains to hoe them well, and keep them clean; the neighbouring ones ridiculed him infinitely, and really thought him mad; but were surprized to see what a crop he gained, for it was very considerable, and he sold it by the sack to all the neighbouring towns

to

to vast profit: this practice he has since continued; but strange to tell, has never been copied!

I walked over several tracts of land near *Bridgend*, bordering on the *Bristol* channel, which would produce admirable carrots and potatoes, and the crops which the country-people have of these roots in their gardens, on the very same soil as the fields, are admirable; I would engage to get as fine crops of them on these lands as any in the world.

Their present husbandry, from the best information I could get, as well as a minute observation, is this; they fallow and lime, which is done very cheap; the quantity they lay upon a customary acre, which is eighteen feet to the perch, is four or five curnocks, as they call them, each twelve hoops, and each hoop three pecks, consequently 450 bushels on an acre, which they burn on their lands so cheap as 1 s. 2 d. a curnock, others who purchase it, pay 2 s. 6 d. or 3 s. It lasts good four years; the course then is, 1. Wheat. 2. Barley. 3. Oats. 4. Oats. 5. Fallow. Others run different. 1. Wheat. 2. Barley. 3. Oats. 4. Pease or beans. Others again,

1.

1. Wheat. 2. Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat; but few, however, are considerate enough for this. They generally give three ploughings for wheat, sow three bushels, and reckon a middling crop from 25 to 30 bushels. Then for barley they plough twice or thrice more; and think 25 bushels a middling crop. Of beans, 15 bushels, but they never hoe them. For oats they never plough but once; and for pease twice. Sometimes they sow clover; and what I have not observed of an age, feed their hogs with it, even to depending in a good measure on it.

Farms are here in general small; from 30 *l.* to 100 *l.* a year is the common run of the country; and land about *Cowbridge* letts, the grass at 20 *s.* and the arable at 10 *s.* but about *Bridgend*, where the soil is much more sandy, there is a great deal lett for 5 *s.* They employ oxen for most of the purposes of draught and tillage: to a farm of 50 *l.* a year, you will generally find eight and two horses; they yoke four to a plough, and sometimes six, and plough an acre a day in common; but when they break up their fallows, not above half as much. Farmers who do not rent above 30 *l.*

30 *l.* a year, keep only four oxen: in general I found their farms to contain more ploughed land than grafs.

Prices of labour all the year round:

Those men who have constant work, 1 *s.* a day.

An ox-boy to drive, 3 *d.* and 4 *d.* a day.

If labourers are taken at various prices, then they run as follow; In winter, 1 *s.*

In hay-time, 1 *s.* In harvest, 1 *s.* 6 *d.*

Reaping wheat, 4 *s.* and 4 *s.* 6 *d.*

Mowing corn, 1 *s.* 3 *d.* and 1 *s.* 6 *d.* and drink.

Mowing grafs, 1 *s.* 8 *d.* and drink.

P R O V I S I O N S.

d.

Bread not quite 2 *per lb.*

Butter, - - 5

Skim-cheese, 2 and 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.*

Mutton, - - 3 $\frac{3}{4}$

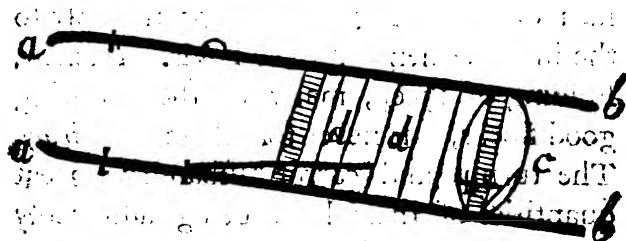
Beef, - - 4

Veal, - - 3

Candles, - 7

I forgot to tell you, that burnbeaking is known here and practised by some farmers, but

but not enough to have a settled price *per* acre for it; they do it therefore by the day. Most of their draughts are performed by one horse, in such a sledge as this :



a. a. the shafts like those of a waggon or cart which slide on the ground on the ends *b. b.* *c.* is a semicircular hoop from shaft to shaft, to keep in the sacks or bundle of hay or wood, &c. which is laid on the cross-bars, *d. d.* The machine is light, and much preferable to carrying the weight on the back.

It is a very great pity the *Glamorganshire* gentlemen do not on a large scale practise a better husbandry, that the force of numerous examples might influence the farmers to change their bad methods. Their soil is capable of as great improvements as any I ever saw, especially in the light parts. The great points they want to be well instructed in are these: *First*, The general

ma-

management of their farms, in respect of draught cattle, to keep no more than necessary for their work, but if they will keep a larger number, to give them a better idea of employing them proportionably to the improvement of their lands. *Secondly*, Folding of sheep, many of them having good flocks, but never fold them. *Thirdly*, The turnip and carrot husbandry : great quantities of their land being admirably adapted to both, but unknown, and when a few turnips are sown, they are never hoed. *Fourthly*, The sowing of sainfoine, which grass would thrive finely upon their lime-stone lands ; but they are unacquainted with it. *Fifthly*, Cropping their fields in a better course, and not continue in the vile custom of sowing a crop of barley, and two crops of oats after one of wheat, on the credit of a fallow and liming, which many of them do. No soil can be better adapted to such courses as these : 1. Turnips. 2. Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat. 5. Carrots. 6. Oats. Or only 1. Turnips. 2. Barley. 3. Clover. 4. Wheat. But the former laying down with sainfoine, among the oats, is preferable.

The

The situation of *Glamorganshire* is very advantageous; few counties more so. For they lay along the *Bristol* channel, and have many little ports in it, by which means they have a ready market at *Bristol* for every thing; and on the western side lies their vast copper, lead, and tin-works, about *Neath* and *Swansea*, in which above 500 hands are employed, which necessarily occasion a great consumption. These works were established on account of the cheapness of coals and labour, for the copper and tin are brought over from *Cornwall*.

I should not omit to inform you, that *Cowbridge* is a very neat, clean, well paved, well built town; much prettier than either *Chepstow*, *Newport*, *Cardiff*, or *Bridgend*; the latter of which places, and its environs, forms the westernmost point of my tour: I purpose on my return to *Chepstow*, to view Mr. *Morris's* famous place at *Persfield*, and in my next letter, will aim at some description of it.

I remain, &c. Yours.

K

LETTER VI.

IF your purpose is seeing *Persfield*, you go from *Chepstow* up the *Monmouth* road, (unless you go by water, which is a pleasant scheme enough) and pass directly to the house: we were shewn to an adjoining part of the garden, which consisted of slopes and waving lawns, having shrubby trees scattered about them with great taste, and striking down a short walk a little to the left, came at once to a little sequestered spot, shaded by a fine beech tree, which commands a landscape, too beautiful for such a daubing pencil as mine to attempt to paint; Mr. *Dodsley*, with his dells and his dingells, and such expressive terms, might make amends for the want of a *Claud Loraine*; however, such an idea as my plain language will give you, follows:— This little spot, over which the beech tree spreads, is levelled in the vast rock, which forms the shore of the river *Wby*, through Mr. *Morris's* ground; this rock, which is totally covered with a shrubby-underwood, is almost perpendicular from the water to the

the rail which encloses the point of view. One of the sweetest valleys ever beheld lies immediately beneath, but at such a depth, that every object is diminished, and appears in miniature. This valley consists of a complete farm, of about forty inclosures, grass, and corn-fields, intersected by hedges, with many trees; it is a peninsula almost surrounded by the river, which winds directly beneath, in a manner wonderfully romantic; and what makes the whole picture perfect, is its being entirely surrounded by vast rocks and precipices, covered thick with wood, down to the very water's edge. The whole is an amphitheatre, which seems dropt from the clouds, complete in all its beauty.

From thence we turned to the left, thro' a winding walk cut out of the rock; but with wood enough against the river to prevent the horrors, which would otherwise attend the walking on such a precipice: after passing through a hay-field, the contrast to the preceding views, we entered the woods again, and came to a bench inclosed with *Chinese* rails in the rock, which commands the same valley and river all fringed with wood; some great

rocks in front, and just above them the river *Severn* appears, with a boundless prospect beyond it.

A little further we met with another bench inclosed with iron rails, on a point of the rock which here is pendent over the river, and may be truly called a situation full of the terrible sublime: you look immediately down upon a vast hollow of wood, all surrounded by the woody precipices which have so fine an effect from all the points of view at *Persfield*; in the midst appears a small, but neat building, the bathing-house, which, though none of the best, appears from this enormous height, but as a spot of white, in the midst of the vast range of green: towards the right is seen the winding of the river.

From this spot, which seems to be pushed forward on to the rock by the bold hands of the genii of the place, you proceed to the temple, a small neat building on the highest part of these grounds; and imagination cannot form an idea of any thing more beautiful than what appears full to your ravished sight from this amazing point of view. You look down upon all the woody precipices, as if in another region,

region, terminated by a wall of rocks; just above them appears the river *Severn* in so peculiar a manner, that you would swear it washed them, and that nothing parted you from it but those rocks, which are in reality four or five miles distant. This *deceptio visis* is the most exquisite I ever beheld, for viewing, first the river beneath you, then the vast rocks rising in a shore of precipices, and immediately above them the noble river *Severn*, as if a part of the little world immediately before you; and lastly, all the boundless prospect over *Gloucestershire* and *Somersetshire*, are, together, such a bewitching view, that nothing can exceed it, and contains more romantic variety, with such an apparent junction of separate parts, that imagination can scarcely conceive any thing equal to the amazing reality. The view of the right, over the park, and the winding valley at the bottom of it, would, from any other spot but this, be thought remarkably fine.

The winding road down to the cold bath, is cool, sequestered, and agreeable. The building itself is excessively neat, and well contrived, and the spring, which sup-

plies it, plentiful and transparent. You wind from it up the rock; but here, I must be allowed just to hint a want, if any thing can be wanted in such a spot as *Persfield*. This walk from the cold bath, is dark and rather gloomy, but breaks and objects are rather scarce in it; the trickling stream you have just left, puts one in mind of a cascade, which would be here vastly beautiful, but does not appear throughout all the walks of *Persfield*. On the left, towards the valley, there is a prodigious hollow filled with a thick wood, which almost hangs beneath you; from the walk, an opening down through this wood might easily be made, with just light enough let in, to shew to advantage the gush of a cascade; to look backwards, assant upon such an object, would be infinitely picturesque amidst the brownness of this hanging grove. I know not whether water could be brought there; but if it could, never was there a situation for viewing it to such advantage.

Passing on, there are two breaks from this walk, which opens to the valley in a very agreeable manner, and then leads through an extremely romantic cave, hollowed

lowed out of the rock, and opening to a fine point of view. At the mouth of this cave some swivel guns are planted; the firing of which occasion a repeated echo from rock to rock in a most surprizing manner. Nor must you pass through this walk without observing a remarkable phenomenon of a large oak, of a great age, growing out of a cleft of the rock, without the least appearance of any earth. Pursuing this walk, as it rises up the rocks, and passes by the point of view first mentioned, you arrive at a bench, which commands a view delicious beyond all imagination: on the left appears the valley beneath you, with the river winding many hundred fathom perpendicular beneath, the whole surrounded by the vast amphitheatre of wooded rocks; and to the right you look full upon the town of *Chepstow*; beyond it the vast *Severn's* windings, and a prodigious prospect bounding the whole. Whenever you come to *Persfield*, rest yourself some time at this bench, for believe me, it is a capital one.

From thence an agreeable walk, shaded on one side with a great number of very fine spruce firs, leads you to an irregular

junction of winding walks, with many large trees growing from the sequestered lawn, in a manner pleasing to any one of taste, and figures in a very striking manner, by contrast to what presently succeeds, which is a view; at the very idea of describing which, my pen drops from my hand:—No, my good friend, the eyes of your imagination are not keen enough to take in this point, which the united talents of a *Claud*, a *Poussin*, a *Vernet*, and a *Smith*, would scarcely be able to sketch. Full to the left, appears beneath you, the valley, in all its beautiful elegance, surrounded by the romantic rocky woods; which might be called (to use another's expression) a coarse selvage of canvass around a fine piece of lawn. In the front, rises from the hollow of the river, a prodigious wall of formidable rocks, and immediately above them, in breaks, winds the *Severn*, as if parted from you only by them: on the right is seen the town and castle, amidst a border of wood, with the *Severn* above them, and over the whole, as far as the eye can command, an immense prospect of distant country. I leave your imagination

tion to give the colours to this mere outline, which is all I can attempt.

The sloping walk of ever-greens, which leads from them, is remarkably beautiful in prospect, for the town and the country above it appears perpetually varying as you move; each moment presenting a fresh picture, till the whole is lost by descending. You next meet with the grotto, a point of view exquisitely beautiful; it is a small cave in the rock, stuck with stones of various kinds; copper, and iron cinders, &c. You look from the seat in it immediately down a steep slope on to a hollow of wood, bounded in front by the craggy rocks, which seem to part you from the *Severn* in breaks; with the distant country, spotted with white buildings above all; forming a landscape as truly picturesque as any in the world. The winding walk, which leads from the grotto, varies from any of the former; for the town of *Chepstow*, and the various neighbouring objects, break on you through the hedge, as you pass along, in a manner very beautiful:—passing over a little bridge which is thrown across a road in a hollow way through the wood, you come to a break upon a scoop of wood alone,

alone, which being different from the rest, pleases as well by its novelty, as its romantic variety. Further on, from the same walk, are two other breaks which let in rural pictures, greatly beautiful; the latter opens to you a hollow of wood, bounded by the wall of rocks, one way, and letting in a view of the town another, in a taste truly beautiful. The next opening in the hedge (I should tell you, by the by, that these breaks and openings are all *natural*, none *stiffly artificial*) gives you at one small view, all the picturesque beauties of a natural *camera obscura*; you have a bench which is thickly shaded with trees, in a dark sequestered spot, and from it you look aside through the opening, on to a landscape which seems formed by the happiest hand of design, but is really nothing but catching a view of accidental objects. The town and castle of *Chepstow* appear from one part of the bench, rising from the romantic steps of wood, in a manner too beautiful to express; a small remove discovers the steeple so dropt in the precise point of taste, that one can scarcely believe it a real steeple, and not an eye-trap. Soon after a large break opens a various view

view of the distant country; and not far from it another, which is much worthy of remark; you look down upon a fine bend of the river, winding to the castle, which appears here romantically situated; the opposite bank is a swelling hill, part overrun with gorse and rubbish, and part cultivated inclosures: this difference in the same object, is here attended with emotions not consonant; the wild part of the hill suits the rest of the view, and agrees with it in the sensations it raises, but the cultivated part being incomplete, and unlike the beautiful farm, at the bottom of the before-mentioned amphitheatre, which is entire, has a bad effect. Was the whole well cultivated and lively, being rather distinct from the rest of the landscape, it would have a much better effect.

The last point, and which perhaps is equal to most of the preceding, is the alcove. From this you look down perpendicularly on the river, with a finely cultivated slope on the other side. To the right is a prodigious steep shore of wood, winding to the castle, which appears in full view, and a part of the town. On the left appears a fine view of the river for
some

some distance, the opposite shore of wild wood, with the rock appearing at places in rising cliffs, and further on to the termination of the view that way, the vast wall of rocks so often mentioned, which are here seen in length, and have a stupendous effect. On the whole, this view is striking and romantic.

About a mile beyond these walks is a very romantic cliff, called the Wind Cliff, from which the extent of prospect is prodigious; but it is most remarkable for the surprising echo, on firing a pistol or gun from it. The explosion is repeated five times very distinctly from rock to rock, often seven; and if the calmness of the weather happens to be remarkably favourable, nine times. This echo is wonderfully curious. Beyond the cliff at some distance is the abbey, a venerable ruin, situated in a romantic hollow, belonging to the Duke of *Beaufort*, well worth your seeing; and this is the conclusion of the *Persfield* entertainment.

Upon the whole, it exceeds any thing of the kind I ever saw. In point of striking picturesque views, in the romantic stile, *Persfield* is exquisite. The cultivated inclosures,

closures, at the bottom of the valley, with the river winding round it, and the vast amphitheatre of rocks and pendent woods which wall it in, to such a stupendous height, is the capital beauty of the place, and Mr. *Morris* has fixed his benches, &c. in those points of view which command it in the happiest manner, with the utmost taste: Nor can any thing be more truly picturesque, than the appearance which the *Severn* in many places takes, of being supported and bounded by the wall of rocks, though four miles distant; this effect is beyond all imagination beautifully picturesque. In respect to the extensive prospects, the agreeable manner in which the town, castle, and steeple are caught, with the rocks, woods, and river taken in themselves, other places are equal; but when they unite to form the landscapes I have just mentioned, I believe they never were equalled.

Throughout the whole of these walks, it is evident, that Mr. *Morris* meant them merely as an assistance to view the beauties of nature, as a means of seeing what nature had already done to his hands, and without any idea of decoration or ornament.

ment. Every thing is in a just taste; but as I have been particular in speaking of all the beauties of *Persfield*, I must be allowed to hint a few circumstances wanting to render it complete. But do not imagine I mean in the least to disapprove the taste of the most ingenious owner; by no means; I am not certain that it would be possible to add what I am going to mention; but I minute them merely that your idea of *Persfield* may be exact; and that you may not mistake any general exceptions I have made use of, to imply beauties which are not here.

The river *Why*, which runs at the bottom of the walks, is an infinite advantage; but it is by many degrees inferior in beauty to a fresh water one, which keeps a level, and does not display a breadth of muddy bank at low water; and the colour is excessively bad; it has not that transparent darkness, that silver-shaded surface, which is, of itself, one of the greatest beauties in nature, and would among these romantic objects give a lustre inexpressibly beautiful. — Cascades are likewise greatly wanting; in such steep of wood and embrowning hollows which throw a pleasing solemnity on the
the

the mind; nothing has so glorious an effect, as breaking unexpectedly upon a cascade, gushing from the rocks, and over-hung with wood: there are many spots in the *Persfield* hollow woods, which point out in the strongest manner the beauty of such objects.

—Lastly, There is a want of contrasts; for the general emotions which arise on viewing the rocks, hanging woods, and deep precipices of *Persfield*, are all those of the *sublime*; and when that is the case, *the beautiful* never appears in such bewitching colours, as those it receives from contrast: to turn suddenly from one of these romantic walks, and break full upon a beautiful landscape, without any intermixture of rocks, distant prospect, or any object that was *great* or *terrible*, but on the contrary, *lively* and *agreeable*, would be a vast improvement here; and I venture the remark the rather, because those views at *Persfield*, which *are beautiful*, are all intermixed with the *sublime*; the farm beneath you, is superlatively so; but the precipice you look down from, the hanging woods, and the rocks, are totally different. The small break, however, through the hedge, which catches the town and steeple,

is

is in this taste; but even here, some large rocks appear. Small elegant buildings, in a light and airy taste, rising from green and gently swelling slopes, with something moving near them, and situated so as the sun may shine full upon them, viewed suddenly from a dark romantic walk, have a charming effect: but it must strike every one who walks over *Persfield*, that the finest seats, &c. are seen rather too much before you step into them; they do not break upon you unexpectedly enough: in many of them you see the rails, which inclose them on the brink of the precipice, at a small distance before you enter. What an effect would the view from the grotto, for instance, have, if you entered it from behind, through a dark zig-zag narrow walk!

Excuse these hints, which I throw out with great reluctance, for *Persfield*, notwithstanding these trifles, is a place full of wonders, and will yield you amazing entertainment; this I am sure of, for I know your taste. Before I finish this tedious description, I cannot avoid mentioning the spirit with which Mr. *Morris* has his place shown; he has always people ready to

attend whoever comes, to conduct them every where, and not one of them is suffered to take a farthing; yet they shew every thing with great readiness and civility: what a contrast to the insolence met with from the Duke of *Marlborough's* porters, after seeing the footman for seeing the house!

From *Chepstow* we crossed the *Severn* to *Bristol*. This passage, as they call it, not a ferry, is sometimes rough; but we had fortunately a very agreeable one. It is two miles over; and we were only fifteen minutes in the boat. From the landing-place I passed to *King's Weston*, the seat of *Edward Southil, Esq*; built by Sir *John Vanburgh*. It is in his heavy stile; the hall the only tolerable room, and that rendered totally useless, by a vast echo. Before one of the chimneys, is a prodigious pair of elk's horns, dug out of a bog in *Ireland*: the finest picture is that of Lord *Thomas Cromwell*, by *Holbein*, an exceeding good one.

The lawn, which the house looks upon, is very beautiful; but for a prospect, you must go up the hill, a little beyond where the breakfasting house for the hot-well

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company is situated; you look down from the hill to the left upon some fine woods, in the midst of which, Mr. *Soutbil's* home appears. In front is a very fine valley, two miles broad, beautifully intersected with hedges and trees, and bounded by the *Severn*, which is here ten miles broad; you command *Kingroad*, with a fleet of shipping, generally lying at anchor; and, lastly, the *Welsh* mountains terminate the whole. Behind there is an extensive view of the country, well scattered with villages: the windings of the *Severn* are seen 20 miles, and those of the *Avon* quite to *Bristol*. The prospect extends into *Somersetshire*, *Glostershire*, *Monmouthshire*, *Glamorganshire*, *Brecknockshire*, *Radnorshire*, and even to *Pembrokeshire*; and, upon the whole, is inferior to nothing, but the most astonishing one in the *Billericay* road, already described.

On the road to *Bristol* I could see nothing but very rich grass, which lets from 20 s. and 30 s. to 40 s. an acre.

There are a few things in the neighbourhood of *Bristol*, which I should advise any curious traveller to view; and none more remarkable than St. *Vincent's* rock, behind the hot-well: it hangs over the river

Avon

Avon in vast and tremendous cliffs, of a prodigious height, and in a place where the river winds a little; they form on one side a vast amphitheatre, which, perhaps, is one of the most sublime sights in nature. The opposite shore of the river is very steep, but quite covered with wood; the verdure of which, is a strong contrast to the barren craggy rock.

At *Clifton*, a village hard by this rock, there is a grotto to be seen, curious in materials and taste; you enter it underground, through a dark arched passage of brick, which has much the air of an approach to a wine-vault: on opening the door, the first object which strikes you, is a den, with the statue of a lion in it. Pleasing objects are generally wished for in a sequestered grot; but the owner of this is more pleased with those of terror.

Rustic pillars, the workmanship of nature, (or at least so in appearance) which seem to support a craggy roof, are by no means amiss in a grotto; but this gentleman delights in *the regular works of art*, and accordingly four tuscan pillars are here the supporters of the roof. A small cascade issuing from broken apertures in a

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rock,

rock, and falling in little broken sheets on straggling sea-weed, coral, fossils, &c. is natural. — Here is a cascade indeed; but it pours out of the urn of a river god. Any thing manifestly carrying the appearance of art, in such an imitation of nature, is painful; a stair-case of wood, for instance. But in this celebrated one, *art* out-does all common art; for here is a door and stair-case *painted!* to make some amends for the want of a real one; — Your *deceptio visus* is a capital gentleman in modern taste, and highly proper for a grotto. Light to view such objects as these should come in no common manner; you may possibly imagine, that it breaks from one aperture in the rock to another, and at last enters by refraction, you know not where: nothing in this mean stile, I assure you; a plain sky-light of glass, gives you the sun's rays in their native heat, which acts by contrast on the coolness of the water. — But to have done with *disposition*, and come to *materials*: There is the utmost profusion of *Bristol* stone, many of the pieces very fine; the four pillars are stuck with nothing else: likewise a great number of fine shells,

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fossils,

fossils, corals, spar, &c. &c. &c. all in greater plenty, and better of their sort, than in any grotto I have seen.—This gentleman at one end of his terrafs has a summer-house with *gotbic* battlements, and windows encompassed by a colonade on *tuscan* pillars, and in his garden other curious strokes of — But I have done; nor should I have ventured so far, but for an affectation of keeping them locked up from common eyes.

When we had sufficiently feasted our eyes with these objects of taste; we viewed the front of Mr. Cozen's house at *Redlands*: it is of white stone, light, and elegantly beautiful; I never saw any thing pleased me so much, except *Holkam*, and *Spencer* house in the green park; and one would think that doors are of infinitely difficult architecture, for these three houses have, to appearance, none. The architect of this, indeed, forgot that his center window did not look like one; and has, accordingly, built and planted a long, but absurd approach from the road to it; and several flights of steps in the garden, seem to lead only to the windows: whenever there is no appearance of a door, equal in appearance

to the front, no particular line of approach to the center should be suffered.—The chapel in the village, is neat and pretty.

Mr. *Champion's* copper-works, about three miles from *Bristol*, are very well worth seeing. They display the whole process; from the melting of the ore, to making it into pins, pans, &c. The liquid ore pouring out of the furnace into clay moulds, I fancy resembles the slight eruptions of mount *Vesuvius*. After being several times melted, it is poured into a flat mould of stone, to make it into thin plates, about four feet long and three broad. Those plates are then cut into 17 stripes, and these again, by particular machines, into many more very thin ones, and drawn out to the length of 17 feet, which are again drawn into wire, and done up in bunches of 40 s. value each; about 100 of which are made here every week, and each makes 100,000 pins. The wires are cut into them, and completed here, employing a great number of girls, who with little machines, worked by their feet, point and head them with great expedition; and will each do a pound and half in a day. The heads are spun by a
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woman with a wheel, much like a common spinning-wheel, and then separated from one another by a man, with another little machine like a pair of sheers. They have several lapis calaminaris stones for preparing it to make the brass, of which they form a vast number of awkward looking pans and dishes for the negroes, on the coast of *Guinea*. All the machines and wheels are set in motion by water ; for raising which, there is a prodigious fire engine, which raises, it is said, 3000 hogsheds every minute.

On the other side of *Bristol*, land presently declined in richness ; for about half way between *Bristol* and *Bath*, arable letts for so little as from 5 s. or 6 s. an acre to 12 s. and good grass for near 20 s. Their course of crops, taken in general, is, 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Barley. 4. Clover. Mountains of cinder ashes might be had around *Bristol*, but few farmers seem to fetch them.

D A Y - L A B O U R.

In winter and spring, 1 s. and 1 s. 2 d.

In hay and corn-harvest, mowing and reaping, 1 s. 6 d. dinner and beer.

P R O V I S I O N S.

Bread, - - 2 d. per lb.

Butter, - - 6

Mutton, - - 4

L 4

Beef,

Beef,	-	-	4 d. per lb.
Veal,	-	-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

Not far out of *Bristol*, I had the satisfaction of remarking a three-acred piece of drilled Lucern, which particularly caught my attention, notwithstanding a pile of building within sight, *strange and odd*, at least. I made the necessary inquiries concerning the history of this Lucern, and found that the owner, Mr. *Reeves*, had before tried four acres of it, but without success; that he then sowed this piece of three acres, on a different soil, and with better success. It was mowed last year three times for hay, to mix with common hay; but it had not been cut this year, a circumstance which surprized me; for the beginning of *July* is very late indeed for the first cutting of Lucern; and I should apprehend, proved sufficiently, that the soil was not yet hit off with any great luck—unless, indeed, it arose from a want of culture; for I remarked the spaces between the rows to be very full of weeds, though I was told Mr. *Reeves* had given it much hoeing and cleaning.—Lucern, I am persuaded, will never turn to any account for hay; the great advantage attend-

attending it, is the feeding cattle with it green; but the delicacy of the leaves is so great, that nine parts in ten of them either fall off, or turn black in the making.

My stay in *Bath* was but very short: I spent a few hours with my very excellent friend, Mr. *Harte*, canon of *Windsor*; whose conversation on the subject of husbandry, is as full of experience, and as truly solid, as his genuine and native humour, extensive knowledge of mankind, and admirable philanthropy, are pleasing and instructive. One hour spent in this gentleman's company, I prized a thousand degrees beyond all the architectural beauties of *Bath*, which you would not, however, fail of admiring greatly. Believe me, *Bath* greatly exceeds *London* in regularity of building, and in being proportionally a much finer city: the most criticising eye must allow that the Circus is truly beautiful, and ornamented to that just degree of elegance which, if I may be allowed the expression, lies between *profusion* and *simplicity*.

From this noble city, I took the road to the *Devizes*. The soil is generally very good, particularly the grass-lands, of which there is the greatest quantity. They

They let from 20 s. to 30 s. an acre, and the arable and grafs all around *Melksham* at 20 s. on an average, which is high. In that neighbourhood they sow all sorts of grain; but one circumstance which gave me concern, was the falling off I perceived in the use of oxen; scarce any ox-teams are kept between *Bath* and the *Devizes*; all the country-people I talked with, shaked their heads at the mention of oxen, and gave immediate preference to horses.

Day-Labour I found as follows :

In winter to hay-harvest, 10 d. a day.

In hay-harvest, 1 s. 2 d. and 1 s. 3 d.

Reaping wheat, 4 s. 5 s. 6 s. and 7 s. an acre.

Mowing spring-corn, 1 s.

P R O V I S I O N S,

Bread,	-	-	2 d. per lb.
Butter,	-	-	5
Mutton,	-	-	4
Beef,	-	-	4
Veal,	-	-	4

The dreary tract of country, from the *Devizes* to *Salisbury*, affords but little that is remarkable in husbandry comparable to what

what might be expected from a cultivated one; but it must by no means be passed over without attention. I was fortunate in meeting with a very intelligent occupier of near 500 *l.* a year, who gave me a consistent and clear account of the state of farming in that vast tract of open country, and he agreed with the other pieces of intelligence I gained.

The farms, I found, were in general extremely large: two or three hundred pounds a year, they reckon *small*; from that rent to 1000 *l.* a year are common. The rent of land appeared to me very reasonable; for their arable lands they pay generally 7 *s.* or 8 *s.* an acre; and as to the plain, they have their shares of that into the bargain. Many of them have six, seven, or eight hundred acres of arable land; and some never *sow* less than five hundred. The flocks of sheep they keep on the plain, I believe, are the greatest in *England*; they run in number from 3 and 400, to 3000; fold them the whole year round, and shift the folds every night. No oxen are used, but all horses; a farm of about 500 *l.* a year, requires, in general, 18 or 20; (some others, 40 or 50)

50) and about twenty men and boys all the year. They use three or four horses to a plough; who scarcely do an acre a day. The particular culture they give each crop, I found nearly as follows; but first I should tell you their course is, 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Barley, and then Fallow again; unless hop, clover, or ray-grass are thrown in, or sainfoine, which they leave as long as it will last. Their preparation for wheat is three earths, sow three bushels, and reap, on a medium, $2\frac{1}{2}$ quarters, measure nine gallons. They likewise plough thrice for barley, sow four bushels; and reckon a middling crop 3 qrs. When they sow oats, they plough but once; throw in five bushels of seed, and gain, on a medium, 5 qrs. For beans one ploughing; plant two bushels, hoe them twice, and reap, on a medium, 3 qrs. For pease, they plough seldom above once; sow four bushels, and when in rows after the plough, hoe them, and reckon two quarters and half a middling crop. They sow a great many turnips; (I observed one large piece, with large leaves, to the breadth of four or five inches, which is very early) plough for them

them three times, hoe them twice, and use them for feeding their sheep. Hogs they feed only with whey, grains, &c. none upon clover.

DAY-LABOUR.

In winter, and quite to harvest, 10 *d.* a day.

In harvest, 1 *s.* 8 *d.* ditto.

Reaping wheat, 5 *s.* an acre.

Mowing corn, 10 *d.*

———Grass, 1 *s.* 8 *d.*

A boy of seven or eight years old, 2 *d.*

IMPLEMENTS.

A new waggon, 20 *l.*

A cart, 10 *l.*

A plough, 18 *s.*

Harrows, 7 *s.* 6 *d.*

PROVISIONS.

	<i>d.</i>
Bread, - -	2 <i>per lb.</i>
Butter, - -	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mutton, - -	4
Beef, - -	4
Cheese, - -	3

I for-

I forgot to tell you, that they sometimes pare and burn; the price 15 s. an acre. Was my attention directed more towards curiosities, I should fill several pages concerning *Stone Henge*, which lies but a little way out of the road from the *Devises* to *Salisbury*. The stones are in form and size really stupendous, and the idea of the difficulty of moving and raising them, is very great. The country, even on this side the *Devises*, has certainly a quarry under it, from whence they might be dug; but if the difficulty of the removal is thought too great, *Quere*, If they are not a composition? Though I rather believe them to be *moved*; for in ages very populous, wonderful works of this kind might be performed, and even powers of mechanism exerted, to which we are at present strangers: nor are such works as these, bad memorials of the population of former ages.

Before we came to *Salisbury*, we turned to the right a little, to view *Wilton*, famous for its manufactory of carpets, and the seat of the Earl of *Pembroke*. I found the manufacturing journeymen earned, in general, about 10 s. or 12 s. a week; and their number about 60 or 80.

My

My Lord *Pembroke's* seat, at this place, is a very ancient building, having been a monastery in the beginning of Queen *Elizabeth's* reign: the disposition of the apartments is, of course, very irregular; for which reason you must excuse my being exact, in going from one into another, according to their situation.

In the court, before the front, stands a column of white *Egyptian* granite, with a statue of *Venus* on the top of it; extremely fine, and worthy of attention from the curious in these matters. It is the same as was set up before the temple of *Venus Genetrix*, by *Julius Cæsar*. In one of the niches of a pedestal, in the inner court, is a statue of *Venus* picking a thorn out of her foot; the turn of the body is inimitable, and the expression of pain in her countenance, fine.

The hall is 50 feet by 28, with a gallery in the same stile as the *Houghton* one: it contains a vast profusion of statues, busts, and basso relievos. I made memorandums of those which struck me most; for the number of the whole is so great, that it would almost fill a volume to mention the beauties of them: the house-steward sells a half-

half-crown catalogue to those who chuse to purchase it.

Statue of *Didia Clara*; drapery exceedingly fine.

Ditto, *Euterpe*, by *Cleomenes*; elegantly done.

Bust of *Nero*; the countenance expressive of his soul.

Ditto, of *Lucilia*; very fine.

Statue of *Hercules* dying; vast expression.

An Alto-Relievo, *Saturn*; most exquisitely performed.

Ditto, *Endymion* asleep; a wretched posture.

Ditto, *Saturn* crowning arts and sciences; very fine.

On each side the door leading to the stair-case, is a copy by *Wilton*; one the *Venus de Medicis*, and the other *Apollo* of *Belvidere*. These are not only the best copies of those statues in *England*, but are most inimitably done. Let us lay aside all prejudices, upon account of their being but copies; and examine them for a moment as originals. The easy, graceful attitude of the *Apollo*, was never exceeded; nor had ever drapery so light, airy, and ele-

• elegant an appearance; the robe falling on one side, and thrown negligently over the stretched out arm, is a stroke of grace beyond description. And the beauty and delicacy of the *Venus* amazingly fine.

In the billiard-room.

Statue of *Marcus Antoninus*; the hand turned behind the drapery very finely.

Ditto, *Venus*; attitude fine, but bad drapery.

In the chapel-room is a chimney-piece of *Inigo Jones*; but very heavy.

Statue of a River Nymph; exceedingly elegant.

New dining-room, 45 by 21.

Pictures in this room, not mentioned in the catalogue they fell at the house.

M. Angelo. Fruit pieces.

Zaccharelli. Landscape.

Salviati. Our Saviour in the wilderness.

Vernet. Landscape, exceedingly fine; the clear obscure inimitable.

Vandyke. Himself.

The Duke *d'Espernon*.

Rubens. Harvest Home.

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St.

St. Luke. Virgin and our Saviour. You will be surprized to find *St. Luke* in a catalogue of painters; but the house-keeper tells you, with a very grave face, there are writings in the library which prove it: but it is too good for *Palestine* or *Judea*; it is very fine.

If I am not mistaken, it is this room that the Descent from the Cross, by *Albert Durer*, is removed into. It appears to me to be one of the very finest pieces in this collection; it consists of eleven figures of the most capital expression. The bloody body of *Christ* is wonderfully painted; I beg you will take particular notice of this picture, if ever you see *Wilton*; for it is by far the greatest work I have seen of this master's, and which ranks him with the greatest of painters.

The hunting-room, 25 square.

I stopped for a while, to admire the bust of *Mago*; that great genius, whose husbandry writings were the only remnant *Rome* allowed of her proud rival, *Carthage*.

Cube-room, 30 square.

Double-

Double-cube, 60 long, 30 broad, and 30 high: a most elegant room, in which proportion pleases every eye: a greater breadth would possibly be an improvement; but there can be no comparison between the proportion of this room, and those of cubes, or any other form, in which the height is equal to, or more than the length. One end is covered by the famous *Pembroke* family, by *Vandyke*; one of the finest pictures of the kind in the world. Over the chimney is another *Vandyke*, exceedingly elegant; King *Charles's* children.

The tables in this room are wonderfully fine, particularly that of *Verde-Antique*. In the lobby, I remarked a *Sappho* in ivory; of most amazingly fine sculpture, and in admirable perfection: here is a *Nativity* by *Van Eyck*; exceedingly fine.

The King's bed-chamber, 30 by 25.

The corner-room, 25 square.

The pictures which struck me most in this room were,

Titian. *Mary Magdalen*; very fine.

M. Angelo. *Descent from the Cross*; wonderfully great.

M 2

Do-

Dominichino. *Magdalen*; flesh finely painted.

Penni. *Christ* astride upon a lamb; *Joseph's* head exceedingly fine; he is looking on.

Vanderwerfe. *Mars* and *Venus*; very fine.

Rubens. The four Children; exceeding elegant. It is said to be the finest in *England* of this master.

Nativity on copper; beautiful.

In the Black Marble Table Room, *Cleopatra* sitting, with *Cæsarion*, her son, on her lap, sucking; the attitude is extremely easy and elegant.

Venus asleep; beautiful.

Inigo Jones's front is reckoned very fine; and certainly not without reason. In the garden is an arcade; the front of it likewise by *Inigo*, and beautiful. The stable piazza was also built by him. The bridge, built by the late Earl of *Pembroke*, from a design of *Palladio*, is esteemed very fine; but I must own, it did not answer my expectations; appearing to me, rather heavy. Upon the cold bath is a beautiful copy of the *Antinous*.

Near

Near the turnpike, turning into *Salisbury*, I met with a small field of Lucerne, drilled in rows, at one foot distance, belonging to Mr. *Hunt*, a brick-maker. It is three years old; was cut four or five times the two years last past. Some of it was cut twice this year, and the rest of a proper height for cutting; very thick, vigorous, and well looking. It was used for feeding horses green, and reckoned a great improvement. This little piece of intelligence, in favour of my favourite grass, pleased me not a little. Before I totally quit this vast plain, I should remark two particulars; the first is, that for many miles between *Devizes* and *Salisbury*, there grows in the turf a vast quantity of wild Burnet, which seems exactly like the cultivated sort; but is, itself, a dwarf kind. Secondly, I never saw so good sheep-walks as all this country; the verdure is good, and the grass, in general, fine pasture, such as would turn to prodigious account, if converted to the purposes of tillage, and let me add, population. This expression puts me further in mind of the vast improvements which *Salisbury* plain calls for. In twenty miles

M 3

I met

I met with only one habitation, which was a hut. A very little reflection will tell us, that such a vast tract of uncultivated land is a public nuisance. This plain is as broad as it is long, besides many irregular breaks into the adjoining cultivated country; therefore, if we calculate the area at a square of 22 miles, it will, I am confident, be under the truth. Now, it has been calculated, that all the corn exported from *England*, would annually grow on such a square: What an argument is this for cultivating it! Innumerable are the arguments and clamours against exporting so much corn; when the cultivation of one single plain would yield nearly the whole: but if with strict deductions, on account of fallow, grasses, &c. half was only produced, it would, I apprehend, be thought the best method of remedying any imaginary evils attending exportation. I do not believe there is really a barren acre of land in all this tract; for the soil, wherever I remarked it, is a fine light loam, yielding exceeding good grasses, and would bear as fine corn as any in the world. The common plea in favour of downs and sheep-walks, is the produce of wool; but the most

most exact calculations that can be made plainly prove the vast superiority of arable farms, with a proper proportion of grasses; nor does the wool of any tract of land, in the employment of manufacturers, by a hundred degrees equal the population attending the plough. What an amazing improvement would it be, to cut this vast plain into farms, by inclosures of quick hedges, regularly planted with such trees as best suited the soil! A very different aspect the country would present from what it does at present, without a hedge, tree or hut; and inhabited only by a few shepherds and their flocks.

Salisbury is one of the prettiest towns in *England*; the market place is well built, the whole exceedingly clean, and with one circumstance I never observed in any other place, a small transparent stream runs through every street; in many of them two, one on each side, instead of gutters: the effect of this in cleanliness and beauty is very great.

The country between *Salisbury* and *Romsey* is generally inclosed, and well cultivated: I found the husbandry pretty much the same across from *Bruchalk* to

Don

M 4

White

White Parish, and then along to *Romsey*: their course of crops, with some variations, is, 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Barley. 4. Oats, pease or beans or fetches: or—
 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Barley. 4. Hop, clover, or ray-grass for two years. For wheat, they plough three or four times, sow three bushels, or $3\frac{1}{2}$ on an acre, in *July* and *August*; and reckon 3 quarters a middling crop. For barley they plough from once to thrice, sow four bushels, and get, on a medium, 3 quarters and an half, or 4 quarters. Oats they plough for but once, sow 5 or 6 bushels; and gain, on a medium, from four to five quarters, which is a very good crop. They plough twice for beans, sow 4 bushels, and reap seldom, on a medium, above 2 quarters; but then they never hoe them. For pease they vary greatly; about *Bruchalk* they plough but once, whereas, around *White Parish*, they stir twice or thrice for them; both sow three bushels, and reckon 2 quarters, and two and a half a middling crop. In turnips they vary still more; for between *Salisbury* and *Romsey* they plough four or five times for them; hoe them once, and feed them off with sheep for wheat; but
 about

about *Bruchalk*, they plough up a wheat stubble, and harrow them directly in, never hoeing.

About *Salisbury*, and towards *Bruchalk*, their flocks are very large, from 500 to 3000. Mr. *Cush* of *Winterbridge*, has upwards of 3000; they fold every night. Some poor lands they mend with chalk, which is of the rich, fat, soapy kind, and lay on about 20 waggon loads *per* acre, which is a good improvement for 20 years. In all this country, they have no notion of feeding hogs, by turning them into clover; nor do they any where here use oxen for the purposes of husbandry, except, alone, the Duke of *Queensbury*, at *Amesbury*, who keeps two or three teams. They reckon that an hundred acres of arable land require six good horses to be kept; they never plough with less than three, all towards *Bruchalk*, always have a boy to drive, and generally do rather better than one acre a day; but about the *Romsey* road, they use four, and generally five, to do an acre. Farms in the latter track are small; 200 *l.* a year they reckon a large one; there are many from 20 *l.* to 60 *l.* and some so low as 10 *l.* The rents run high, from 15 *s.* to

to 20 s. an acre. But towards *Bruchalk* the farms are large; some few of 40 l. or 60 l. but run up to seven and eight hundred pounds a year.

I observed in *Salisbury*, large heaps of cinder ashes, and mortar rubbish; and on inquiring, if the farmers did not bring it away, I found they served the inns with straw, for the dung in return, but would not take the other manure without 3 d. or 4 d. a load with it; which is an instance of mistaken notions, which, I believe, can scarcely be matched, for there is no comparison between the manures.

L A B O U R.

In winter, 10 d. towards *Bruchalk*.

———— 1 s. ——— *Romsey*.

Summer to harvest, 1 s. *Bruchalk*.

———— 1 s. 3 d. *Romsey*.

Harvest, 1 s. 6 d. and beer, or 1 s. 2 d. and victuals and drink.

Reaping wheat, 4 s. 6 d. and 5 s.

Mowing corn, 1 s. and 1 s. 2 d.

———— Grass, from *Salisbury* to *Bruchalk*,

2 s. 6 d. an acre, to *Romsey* 1 s. 6 d.

Hoeing turnips, 2 s. 6 d.

Children fifteen years old, 4 d. or 5 d.

I M P L E M E N T S.

These are the same as from the *Devizes*.

P R O V I S I O N S.

		<i>d.</i>
Bread,	- -	$1\frac{1}{2}$ per lb.
Butter,	- -	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Mutton,	- -	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Beef,	- -	3
Veal,	- -	$2\frac{9}{2}$
Cheese,	- -	$3\frac{1}{2}$

As to manufactures, there are considerable ones of flannels and linseys at *Salisbury*; at which the journeymen earn from 7 s. to 9 s. a week the year round: and at *Romsey*, near 500 hands are employed in making those shalloons which are called Ratinetts: the journeymen earn, on an average, 9 s. a week all the year; and a girl of sixteen or eighteen, a shilling a day by weaving, but in the neighbouring village, by spinning, not above half as much; the children are employed at quilling very young.

The road from *Salisbury* to *Romsey*, and the first four miles from thence to *Winchester*,

chester, I found so remarkable good, that I made particular inquiries concerning their making and mending it. They first lay a foundation of large stones, which they level with smaller ones; then make a layer of chalk on that gravel, and, lastly, another of sifted gravel, exceeding fine; and in some places tending towards a sand. They are many miles as level, as firm, and as free from loose stones as any the finest garden walk I ever beheld; and yet the traffic on it is very great by waggons. But scarcely the print of a wheel is to be seen on it for miles; and I really believe there was not a loose stone to make a horse stumble, nineteen miles from *Salisbury*.

Between *Romsey* and *Winchester* the husbandry is, in general, the same as what I last mentioned, but with some variations, which I shall mention. They feed their turnips off with sheep; but not for wheat, but barley; oftentimes, however, they sow them after fetches, which they either feed off with sheep, or mow green for horses; seldom letting them stand for seed or hay. They plough but once for them, and sow three bushels. This is excellent husbandry; a thick crop of them loosening the

the soil as much as several ploughings. The farms are, in general, small; 200 *l.* they reckon large, and lands lett, on an average, grass and arable, from 7 *s.* to 20 *s.* per acre; but generally about 10 *s.* Having mostly a right to commonage, they keep a greater number of sheep than appears to be proportioned to their farms. One of 50 *l.* a year, for instance, has 300: Some of the farmers, nearest to *Winchester*, serve the inns with straw, and take their dung in return; and bring coal-ashes from thence; some soap-ashes, for which they give 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per waggon load, which is prodigious cheap. No oxen used; four horses to a plough. Their measure 18 feet to a perch.

L A B O U R.

In winter, to hay-time, 1 *s.* a day.
 Mowing hay, 1 *s.* 6 *d.* ditto.
 Reaping wheat, 5 *s.*
 Mowing corn, and raking it, 2 *s.*
 ————Grass, and making into hay in the meadows, 5 *s.* Elsewhere, 3 *s.*
 Hoeing turnips, 4 *s.* and 4 *s.* 6 *d.*
 A boy of 7 or 8 years old, 3 *d.* a day.

P R O -

PROVISIONS.

d.

Bread,	- -	$2\frac{1}{2}$ per lb.
Butter,	- -	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Mutton,	- -	4
Veal,	- -	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Beef,	- -	4
Cheese,	- -	3
Coals,	9 d. a bushel.	

From *Winchester* I turned out of my way purposely to view *Crux Easton*, and the country adjoining, that I might be the better able to understand several particulars, which Mr. *Lisle*, in his *Observations on Husbandry*, leaves very doubtful. I wanted to discover, if the soil required 8 and 10 oxen to plough; but, herein, I was, what I may call, practically disappointed, for not a working ox is to be met with for miles around, and but very few in the whole country. But they commonly use 3 horses, sometimes 4. White earth, which he so often mentions, is very dry, sound corn-land, very shallow; for the pure chalk is at a few inches of depth, and the surface varies only from it in its dryness. The
rent,

rent, at a medium, of whole farms there, is 9s. and 10s. an acre. I must own, I expected something more *peculiar* than I found; however, my own curiosity was satisfied, though I could not bring from them many particulars worth your reading.

The country around *Winchester*, and to *Aylesford*, and its neighbourhood, is, in general, poor; in the latter, land lets from 5s. to 10s. an acre, and grass much higher: their flocks of sheep are considerable, arising to above 1000, and the benefit of folding well known. Particulars of culture and prices, are the same as those I troubled you with last. I should observe, that Mr. *Rodney* of *Old Aylesford*, has tried a small field with lucerne, broadcast, and a piece of another with burnet; the plants of the latter were vigorous, and looked well; but so thin that there was not half a crop; it is a year and a half old; but I could not find that any cattle would eat it. His lucerne was broadcast, except about half a dozen rows, two feet asunder; but as the crop was very thin, and much overrun with weeds, it affords me no conclusions that are the least determinate.

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Recollecting a letter in the *Museum Rusticum*, which mentioned the Earl of Northington's having ordered an experiment to be tried on burnet, I determined to view it, though six miles out of my way, in going and returning. I found it about one acre; and was informed, that the soil was light, but rich enough to produce wheat, or any other common grain. It was two years old last spring; sown by itself, and kept clean, and mown once the first year; the second, twice, once for seed, and once for green food; the horses, hogs, and sheep, feed freely on it; and this point, it is imagined at the *Grange*, depends upon not giving it them, when too old and stalky. At present, it is standing for another crop of seed, not having been cut this year; and is really a very fine thick crop, of great bulk, and has very few weeds in it.

The country between *Aylesford* and *Alton* is pleasant, and well cultivated, but not rich in soil; the land, in general, is light and dry, very healthy, and bears, by means of good tillage and manure, wheat and turnips; two vegetables which delight in opposite soils; but whenever any one yields
both,

both, that circumstance is a strong reason for concluding it, what the farmers call, *a kindly soil*. The rent through this tract is in general, 7 s. or 8 s. an acre, grass and arable, one with another: and here I should observe, that any farmer who has a tolerable capital for manuring, will make more money of such land than of better; for, although the land which lets for a guinea is much better, yet 14 s. laid out every year in manures on the 7 s. soil, will, undoubtedly, yield still finer crops; and this truth is extremely palpable, if the rich soil is inclinable to wetness.

The farms are, in general, small; 200 l. a year is reckoned a very large one: they run, in general, from 30 l. or 40 l. a year, to 150 l. They cannot have so small as in some counties, because no plough stirs with less than four horses, and a farm of 15 l. or 20 l. could not keep them. Their course of crops is, 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Barley. 4. Clover and trefoil, and some ray-grass two years; then round again: or, 1. Turnips. 2. Barley. 3. Grasses, two years. 4. Fallow. 5. Wheat. 6. Barley. They plough three times for wheat, sow three bushels; and reckon two

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quar-

quarters a middling crop. For barley they plough twice, sow four bushels; and reckon two quarters and half the medium. They very seldom give above one earth for oats; sow four and a half, or five bushels, and reckon three quarters the middling produce. For pease they plough once, sow three or four bushels, according to the size of the pea; and two quarters and a half the medium. Fetches they never sow, except for feeding off with sheep, or cutting green for their horses; they plough but once for them, and sow two bushels. Whenever these crops of oats, pease or fetches come in, it is, in general, instead of barley. The culture of turnips has within these 12 years increased twenty to one; they plough three or four times for them, hoe them once, and feed them off entirely with sheep. They use also wheel-ploughs, never less than four horses, and do an acre a day. As to the general œconomy of their farms, the following sketch of one, of 160 l. a year at *Rupply*, will give you some idea. The farmer, who occupies it, has about 400 acres of land, a considerable part of them grass; keeps 10 or 12 horses, and about eleven score of sheep: employs constantly five

five servants, one shepherd, one boy, and three labourers.—I forgot to tell you, that many of them manage to have a piece of clover for their hogs, an article of husbandry I have not met with for some time.

LABOUR, &c.

All the year round, 1 s. a day and beer, or 1 s. 2 d. without. This is excessive cheap.

Reaping wheat, 4 s. and 4 s. 6 d. *per acre*.

Mowing barley and oats, 1 s. mow and rake, 1 s. 8 d.

Mowing grass, 1 s.

Hoeing turnips, 5 s.

Lad of 13 or 14 years old, 4 d. a day.

Ploughing land *per acre*, 8 s.

PROVISIONS.

Bread, - - - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *per lb.*

Butter, - - - 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 7 d.

Candles, - - - 7

Mutton, - - - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Beef, - - - 4

Cheese, - - - 2 d. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 4 d.

Labour and provisions in this country bear no proportion to each other; and the

wretched management of keeping double the number of horses that are really necessary, is most pernicious in its consequences.

The soil between *Alton* and *Farnham*, is much richer than the above; letts on an average from 15 s. to 20 s. an acre. Their chief crops are wheat, pease, and beans. They fallow for the first; then sow wheat, and then spring-corn—others trench-plough for pease, then wheat, then soft-corn; then lay down with clover and ray-grass for two years. They plough three times for wheat; sow three bushels, and reckon three quarters a medium, often have five. For barley they give two or three earths, sow four bushels; and get four quarters on a medium. For oats, stir but once, sow four bushels; and four quarters they reckon a middling crop. When they trench-plough for pease, they don't stir a second time; but when only common tillage, twice; sow $3\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, and reap, on a medium, three quarters. When they sow turnips, they plough thrice, hoe them once, and feed them off entirely with sheep. They use only wheel-ploughs; never less than four horses, and often five

or

or six; which, in stiff lands, do an acre a day, and in light, an acre and a half.

They reckon that 80 acres of arable land requires five horses, if light. One farmer, who rents 250 acres of light arable land, keeps nine horses; 120 sheep; three men; three boys; and four or five labourers the year round.

But the most remarkable husbandry, near *Farnham*, is the culture of hops; of which they grow very large quantities, and are a vast improvement; for hop grounds let here from 3 *l.* to 9 *l.* an acre, which last price is very great. The labour attending them, they reckon 3 *l.* 10 *s.* an acre *per ann.* The poles cost (according to their length) from 12 *s.* to 22 *s.* a hundred; last four or five years, and twenty-six hundred are requisite to an acre. They consider 12 Ct. a middling crop, and the average price at 6 *l.* or 7 *l.* *per Ct.* Which circumstances prove the vast improvement of this culture.

— This year's crop promises but ill.

Bently-Green, a village between *Alton* and *Farnham*, is worthy your notice, if you travel this road; for it is pretty, chearful, lively, well built, and the houses scattered, not like a town, and all with

little gardens, neat and well planted; and I beg you will take notice of the fences on each side of the road for 10 miles; I never be held any thing equal to them; the whitethorn hedges are of a most vigorous growth; a great number of them regularly clipped; and the dead hedges, herdle work; three feet, or three feet six inches high; the stakes strong in the ground, and closely interlaced; and whenever you see young quick, there is one on each side of it, and the white-thorn plants kept clean weeded: nor is this husband-like attention to their fences confined to the road-side, but extends on each side into the fields, as far as you can see.—The country is a very pleasant one; a due mean between a hilly and a flat one; the small risings give a variety, and open to agreeable landscapes; and the number of scattered houses and villages render it lively; particularly as they are so neat.

LABOUR, &c.

All the year round, 1 s. and beer.

Harvest, a month, at 40 s. victuals and beer.

Reap.

Reaping *per acre*, 3 s. 4 s. and 4 s. 6 d.

Mowing corn, 1 s.

———Grass, 1 s.

Hoeing turnips, 3 s. 4 s. and 5 s.

Ploughing, 7 s. and 8 s.

PROVISIONS.

Bread, 1 s. 3 d. the half peck loaf.

Butter, $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. *per lb.*

Mutton, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Beef, 4 d.

Cheese, (*Norfolk*) $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. *West-country*, 4 d.

Peat for firing, 10 s. the waggon-load.

This place, I think, is near enough to the capital, to warn me of its influence; I shall therefore give you a respite, and conclude with assuring you, how much I am, &c.

Farnham, July 13th, 1767.

LETTER VII.

WHAT little I have seen of *Surry*, gives me no great opinion of its fertility: There is much bad land, not far from *Gilford*; and I observed, as I past from *Farnham* thither, that the upper lands were poor. They sow a good deal of sainfoin, which is a great improvement; for it yields two tuns, and two and a half of hay *per* acre. The country is, however, pleasant; and for some miles before you arrive at *Gilford*, the prospects are very fine.

Between that place and *Ripley*, the land is better; letts, in general, from 10 s. to 15 s. and I perceived the crops to be exceeding good. On inquiry, I found their course of crops to be: 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Spring-corn. 4. Clover. 5. Wheat. 6. Beans, pease, or oats. This course is in case the soil is in good order; if it runs foul, they favour it rather more; and it must be confessed, that wheat sown on a clover lay, which succeeds two crops of corn, is presuming too far on accidents, and

and the strength of the land's fertility. They plough for wheat three or four times; sow two bushels and an half, and reckon three quarters a middling crop. For barley, they plough but once in their light lands, but twice in those which are heavier; the quantity three and a half, or four bushels; and the mean produce four quarters. For oats they plough but once, sow four or five bushels; which yield, on a medium, four or five quarters. When beans are the crop, they likewise plough but once; and dibble in three bushels to the acre; hoe them always once, and if they are foul, twice. For pease, one earth; sow three bushels, generally in drills, 14 or 15 inches asunder, with a small plough, made on purpose; always hoe them once or twice, and have generally, on a medium, four quarters on an acre: they sow a great many turnips; plough twice or thrice for them, hoe them twice; and generally feed them off with sheep, but sometimes stall-feed bullocks with them; in which case, they reckon that an acre of good ones will fatten two middling sized beasts.

In tillage they use both horses and oxen; four horses to a plough, and sometimes more;

more; and four, six, and eight oxen, and in their light lands do an acre and half a day, but in the stiffer soils, only an acre. The oxen are reckoned the most profitable, by the most sensible people I talked with; but nine horses are, nevertheless, kept to one ox. They keep a great many cows in this country, and reckon the profit of one at 4*l.* One farm I was particular in my inquiries after, by accidentally meeting with a person concerned in it; the rent is about 200*l.* a year; consists of about 300 acres, of which 240 are ploughed. The farmer keeps 12 working horses, and eight oxen; 300 sheep, with right of commonage; 30 cows, and nine fattening beasts. He employs constantly four men-servants, two boys, and ten labourers: this number of working hands, you must certainly observe is very great.

LABOUR, &c.

In winter, 1*s.* 2*d.* a day.

In spring, 1*s.* 4*d.*

In harvest, 2*s.* and 2*s.* 6*d.*

Reaping wheat, from 5*s.* to 9*s.* an acre.

Mowing corn, from 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*

Mowing

Mowing grass, 2 s. and 2 s. 6 d.

Hoeing turnips, 5 s. second time 4 s.

——— Beans, 3 s. and 4 s.

——— Drilled pease, 3 s. and 4 s.

Boy of 10 or 12 years old, *per day*, 4 d. to 6 d.

Ploughing, *per acre*, 5 s. and 6 s.

P R O V I S I O N S.

	<i>d.</i>
Butter, - -	7 <i>per lb.</i>
Mutton, - -	4
Beef, - -	4
Bread, - -	2

Mr. *Hamilton's* ornamented park, at *Cobham*, is exceeding well worth your attention; it gave me much pleasure in walking over it, and you will, doubtless, excuse my dwelling for a few minutes on the principal circumstances which are most striking, though not connected with the husbandry of the country.

Passing from the house, and a few winding shrubberies, which are parted from the park by net-work, and in which the green-house is situated; we were conducted through the park to another inclosed plantation, which has an agreeable walk,
com-

commanding a pretty valley, through a winding row of fir trees, and at the summit of a bank, which is planted with vines; the produce of which last vintage, was three half hogsheads of wine. This walk leads to the Gothic-temple; an open building, which looks immediately upon a large piece of water, with a handsome bridge thrown over an arm of it: As the temple is upon a rising ground, and looks down upon the water, the beauty of the scene is greatly increased. In point of lightness, few buildings exceed this temple. From thence we wind through a fresh walk, near another part of the water, cross a bridge, formed to appearance of rocks and fossils; and turning down, to the right, find that this bridge is the covering of a most beautiful grotto, as well as the water; for immediately under it, is a large incrustation of fossils; and spar hanging every where like icicles from the cieling, has a most pleasing effect. On each side the water is a small path, parted from the stream by marine fossils: nothing can have a more elegant effect than the ceiling of this grotto, (in which is stuck, with great taste, a profusion of spar) hanging over the

the water, as if of a kindred, but congealed nature. From this grotto, the walk leads on the side of the water, to a ruined arch, in a just taste: the tessellated pavement; the mosaic'd ceiling; and the basso and alto relievo's, which are let into the wall, are all in an exceeding good taste, in decay; the symptoms of which are excellently imitated; with weeds growing from the ruined parts, and all the other marks of antiquity. Through the arch, the river appears winding in a proper manner; that is, dark and gloomy, around a rough piece of grass, which has a consistent appearance. But what hurt me very much, was the contradiction of emotions, raised by the scene behind; which was totally different from that of the ruin; elegant and agreeable; a smooth water, and sloping banks, closely shaven, with a little island in it, are all *agreeable* objects; and by no means affect the spectator in unison with the ruin of *Grecian* architecture, and the gloomy objects around.

The cascade, which is the next object that appears, is, though trifling, in a very just taste. The water gushes in five or six streams,

streams, out of tufts of weeds, growing in the rock; really in the very taste of nature; over it bends the trunk of an old oak, from side to side, which has an exceeding good effect; and the trees rising to a great height above all, finishes the scene very completely. This cascade is fed by a wheel, which lifts the water from the river, which falling in the cascade, keeps up the lake already mentioned. From hence we proceeded through a piece of wild ground, over-run with brakes and rubbish, through a scoop or hollow, bounded by high firs on each side; and in which the tower (another ornamental building) appears with a very pleasing effect, to other darker walks, quite closed, which lead to the hermitage; we entered into a small room, nearly dark; and on the opening of a door out of it, into the hermit's parlour, another room. The windows present a very beautiful scene; for you look immediately down upon the river, winding round some cultivated fields, with a very good prospect bounding the whole. But I would observe, that this landscape, being of nearly the same nature with many of those at *Persfield*, figured poorly on comparison;

parison; for the depth of the descent, is not near equal to those vast ones of Mr. *Morris's*, which circumstance takes greatly from the picturesque appearance: and the river is too narrow, and not seen distinctly enough; the wood, which grows on its banks, and the breaks under the hermitage window, almost hide it; nor are the fields overlooked, half so distinct and beautiful, as those in the valley at *Persfield*; but notwithstanding this comparison, the view will appear exceedingly beautiful, to those who never saw *Persfield*, and pretty to those who have; the coming upon it, by suddenly opening the door between the hermit's rooms, is contrived with more taste than Mr. *Morris's*.

The tower is the next building: from it is seen a very fine prospect; *St. Paul's* cathedral and *Windsor* castle, being two among many other objects seen from it; but the temple of *Bacchus* next seen, is infinitely beyond it. It consists of one handsome room elegantly stucco'd, with a portico of Corinthian pillars, in an elegant and beautiful taste: In niches, under the portico, are four copies in plaister, from celebrated statues; the *Venus de Medicis*,
and

and *Venus* with fine haunches, making two, and both good. Around the room, are antique *Roman* statues, on handsome pedestals, and in the middle a colossal one, of *Bacchus*. From hence another winding walk leads you out of the park.

On the whole, Mr. *Hamilton's*, though by no means equal in the sublime to the amazing objects at *Persfield*, yet is certainly a very beautiful place, and particularly complete, in respect of buildings, in which the other is deficient; nor does *Persfield*, in point of beauty of water, by any means equal it: in a word, *Cobham* is the range of beauty; but *Persfield*, superiorly sublime. The latter is as much wanting in lively and agreeable buildings, as the former is in the sublime, and unornamented touches of nature.

From *Cobham* almost to *Westminster* bridge, the soil is a sand, naturally a poor one, but near *London* greatly enriched with manure. I observed, however, in the sandy fields, about *Essex* and *Kingston*, that the crops were exceeding good, which the farmers attributed to the wetness of the season, and I believe with good reason. There appeared nothing in the husbandry, much

much worthy of remark ; their course is,
1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Spring-corn,
or clover. Day-labour very dear :

In winter, 1 s. 4 d. a day.

In spring, 2 s.

In harvest, 2 s. and 2 s. 6 d. and beer, &c.

PROVISIONS.

d.

Butter,	-	-	$7\frac{1}{4}$ per lb.
Bread,	-	-	2
Mutton,	-	-	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Beef,	-	-	4

At *Chapbam* I had the satisfaction of viewing the experimental agriculture of *Mr. Baldwin*. I had read his letter to *Dr. Templeman*, describing his field of burnet, and had much curiosity to see it ; but, to my no small disappointment, found he had ploughed it up the week before. From the contents of that letter, I was much surprized at finding this ; because, *Mr. B—* speaks of it as an excellent plant. I should, however, remark, that the reason of leaving it no longer, was the want of sheep to pasture it ; it not suiting *Mr. Baldwin* to keep flock enough to feed it.

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Three

Three acres of Lucerne, of this gentleman's, made me some amends; about two acres are drilled in rows, two feet asunder, and the third transplanted at the same distance. It is two years old; I found it two feet two inches high, thick and fine, and had been cut once before this year; used chiefly for the soiling horses, and for feeding four cows. The soil is a sandy loam, of a dark colour, appeared to me admirable turnip-land, and if deep enough, would bear fine carrots; bears good barley, as appears by a piece in the same field adjoining: The drilled equal to the transplanted; but then it should be remembered, that the Rev. Mr. *Harte*, the famous director of the transplanting method; orders the plants to be set at the distance of three feet four inches, for the benefit of effectual ploughing between the rows. Besides Lucerne, Mr. *Baldwin* has some experiments in small, on timothy, bird-grass, &c. The former is coarse, thin, and poor; and is, I am persuaded, a worthless plant; his bird-grass is very thick and very fine; his silver hair-grass the same, but not so delicate; and another very thick one, which I apprehend is the fine-bent, the same.

same. For the clearing of crops, sown in rows, Mr. *Baldwin* has invented a ploughing harrow; which I saw in the Lucerne-field, and took a draught of:



The chief use of it, is for *loosening* the intervals, not *cleaning* them. I cannot omit mentioning the extreme politeness, with which this gentleman (who is exceedingly zealous for the good of agriculture) receives all, who make any inquiries concerning his manner of cultivating the plants I have mentioned.

I passed through *London*, and scarce stopped; but took the *Epping* road, on account of seeing the experimental agriculture of Mr. *Crockett*, which I remembered to have read in his letter to that very sensible and learned cultivator, the Rev. Mr. *Comber*, published in the *Museum Rusticum*. But I found, to my disappointment, only about half an acre of transplanted Lucerne, which was remarkably fine; for it mea-

fured two feet six inches and three feet high, vigorously branching, although it had been cut twice this year before I saw it: it is two years old; the soil rather gravelly, and appeared somewhat stiff.

In my way back to the great *Essex* road, I stopped, and viewed *Wanstead* house, the seat of the Earl *Tilney*, which is a very magnificent palace. It is built of *Portland* stone, with a very grand portico in the center, supported by large Corinthian pillars; under which is the landing-place, from a double stone stair-case, which leads to the grand hall. This room is 53 feet long, by 45 broad; the ornaments consist chiefly of two large antique statues, on marble pedestals, *Livia* and *Domitian*; and three large pictures by *Casali*, *Coriolanus*, *Por-senna*, and *Pompey* taking leave of his family. These pieces are not in that master's best manner; the colours are too tawdry; nor is the beauty and delicacy of the female figures equal to many I have seen by that painter. The door-cases of this room are plain, but little carved; but in a good style. The chimney-piece heavy.

From the hall, we were conducted to the left, into a dining-room of 27 feet square;

out

out of that into a drawing-room of the same dimensions; from that into a bed-chamber of 24 by 20, and through that into two light closets: these rooms form the front line to the left of the hall. There is nothing remarkable in their furniture; but I observed, among other modern pictures, that of a *Turkish* lady, which pleased me. You will excuse me giving you my little criticisms; I am no connoisseur in paintings, and may be so gothic as to praise a piece by a modern artist, when an antient one hangs by it.

The suite of apartments, to the right of the hall, consists of, 1st, A dining-room, 25 square; then a drawing-room, 30 by 25. The chimney-piece in this room is elegant; an eagle taking up a snake, in white marble, is let into the center of it. The next is a bed-chamber, 25 by 22; and out of that we entered the ball-room, which runs the whole breadth of the house, and connects the front line of apartments with the back suite. This room is 75 by 27; very elegantly fitted up with gilded ornaments of all kinds. But I should remark, that the gilding being all on brown,

is by no means set off with such lustre and brilliancy, as that at *Holkam*.

From the ball-room, turning to the back suite, we entered another state bed-chamber, 27 by 22. From that into a dressing-room, 27 by 25; then into an antichamber, 40 by 27; the chimney-piece white marble and elegant; marble tables fine. Next came the saloon, 30 square; chimney-piece white marble and pretty; then another dining-room 40 by 27, ornamented by three large pictures, by *Cassali*: *Alexander* directing *Apelles* to paint *Campaspe*, who is sitting naked in a chair, is beautiful, the naked well coloured, and the whole figure enticing; but there is a strange swelling in her thigh. The next piece is the *Continence of Scipio*, a poor one; the lady is by no means tempting, nor has *Scipio* any thing the least characteristic in his countenance. *Sophonisba* taking poison, is the third; she is an insipid figure, and takes the poison as she would pluck a rose; but without any of that noble heroism of soul, which speaks a contempt of the fear of death. The colours in all these pieces are too glaring. From this room we entered a drawing one, 27 square;

square; then another bed-chamber, 27 by 21; very elegant hung with crimson velvet; bed the same, and lined with an *Indian* sattin, white, trailed with coloured flowers. Lastly, A dressing-room, 26 by 18; ornaments richly gilt. The suite of rooms on either side, is, in the whole, 260 feet.)

Under the hall is a very noble arcade; out of which is a common dining-parlour, 40 by 35; out of which we entered a breakfast-room, 30 by 25; elegant indeed. Prints pasted on a buff (pale yellow coloured) paper, with engraved borders; and all disposed in a manner which displays great taste. The prints are of the very best masters, and the ornaments elegant. — I cannot help preferring the taste of this room to Lady *Townshend's* dressing-room, above-mentioned.

Wanstead, upon the whole, is one of the noblest houses in *England*. The magnificence of having 4 state bed-chambers, with complete apartments to them; and the ball-room are superior to any thing of the kind in *Houghton*, *Holkam*, *Blenheim*, or *Wilton*; But each of those houses are superior to this in other particulars; and to form a complete

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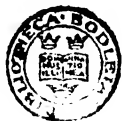
palace,

palace, something must be taken from all. In respect of elegance of architecture, *Wanslead* is second to *Holkam*. What a building would it be, were the wings added according to the first design!

From *Wanslead*, I took the direct road to *Ilford*; which afforded me a pleasure superior to that, which any palace could confer; for I found there a husbandry more perfect (that is profitable) than any I ever met with: the particulars of it are worthy of your attention.

The farms are neither very large nor small; 200*l.* a year is reckoned a large one, and the land lets, at a medium, at 1*l.* 10*s.* *per* acre. The course of crops most common is, 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Oats. 4. Turnips. 5. Barley. 6. Clover and ray-grass. 7. Potatoes. Their potatoe husbandry is admirable; they dig in the clover (and natural grass, when they break it up the same) about *February*, and immediately dibble in potatoe sets, four inches deep, and from eight to ten inches square. Before they come up, they hoe the ground perfectly clean, and after they appear, twice more. They dig them up with a three pronged fork, and
ge-

generally before they are half grown. I saw them taking up several crops; the reason of this earliness is the great price potatoes bear in the summer. The profit is exceeding great. The landlord of the *red-lyn* inn at *Elford*, sold three rood as they grew, without any expence of taking up, the day I was there (*July* the 13th) for 9*l.* And some *Irishmen* who had hired about two acres of ley-land, of Mr. *Johnston*, the brick-merchant, took up 40 sacks *per* acre; which amounts to above 20*l.* *per* acre. The crop I viewed; it was dibbled promiscuously. These *Irishmen* hired the land at 4*l.* an acre. It was once very common to have all the potatoe-grounds belonging to them, but of late the farmers have got pretty much into the culture themselves. Mr. *Johnston*, abovementioned, at the time that he lett the ley to some *Irish* labourers, offered them at the same price, the surface of a very large quantity of mud, thrown out of a canal in his garden, but they refused it: upon which he directed them to plant it on his own account; and to their surprize, it turned out by much the best crop of the two,



two*.—But to return to the general husbandry around *Hford*.

For wheat they plough four times, sow two bushels; and reckon $3\frac{1}{2}$ quarters a middling crop. They give three or four earths for barley, sow three bushels; and 5 quarters a middling crop. They plough thrice for oats, which is extraordinary, sow four bushels; and 6 quarters they reckon a medium. For turnips, they stir four times, sow before midsummer, and feed off with cows and sheep; always hoe twice, sometimes thrice. They plough only with horses, two to a plough, and do an acre a day. As to the general œconomy of their farms, take the following sketch of one I met with. Rent 200 *l.* acres 200, nearly all arable. Ten horses; suckled 200 sheep, and kept two men and two boys, and six labourers all the year. They feed their hogs in summer on clover.

L A B O U R.

In winter, 1 *s.* 4 *d.* a day, and small beer.

In hay-time, 1 *s.* 6 *d.* and beer.

Reaping wheat, 5 *s.* an acre.

Mowing spring-corn, from 1 *s.* 6 *d.* to 2 *s.*

* They reckon two tun about a middling crop.

Hoeing turnips, 5 s. for twice.

Digging land for potatoes, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. 3 d. and $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per rod.

P R O V I S I O N S.

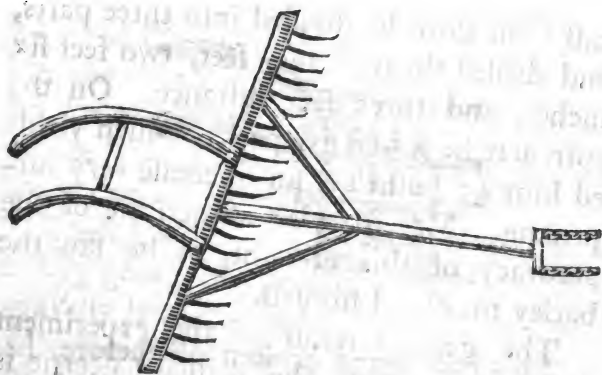
	<i>d.</i>
Bread, - - -	$1\frac{1}{4}$ per lb.
Mutton, - - -	$4\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 d.
Beef, - - -	4
Veal, - - -	5
Candles, - - -	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Coals, - - -	11 per bushel.

I should have told you, that the land-lord of the *red-hyon*, was this year offered 7 l. an acre for a small field of garden pease, drilled in rows, three feet asunder, to be taken off in time for turnips; but refused it.

My inquiring after the agriculture of the neighbourhood, brought me acquainted with the improvements of Mr. *Johnston*, above mentioned. They consist of experiments on Lucerne and Burnet. Four years ago last spring, he mark'd out three acres of land; the soil a hot gravel to some depth, as appears by a large gravel-pit adjoining. One acre he sowed with Lucerne broadcast; another with the same over barley broadcast:

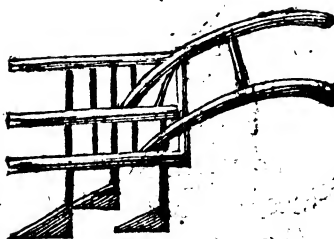
cast: the third he divided into three parts, and drilled them at two feet, two feet six inches, and three feet distance. On the corn acre he sowed five pecks, which yielded him 45 bushels; an increase very surprising. Mr. *Johnston* assured me of the accuracy of this account, as he saw the barley measured himself.

The general result of the experiment hitherto, is, that the drilled Lucerne is always earlier than the broad-cast; but not so much as to arise to one cutting in the whole year, the latter being cut as often as the former. In respect of quantity there is no comparison; the broadcast yielding nearly double to the drills, consequently Mr. *Johnston* gives it the preference; nor can he yet determine how long it will last in the ground. The acre which was sown without corn, cost him near two guineas to clean; but after the first year he weeded all the broad-cast piece, with an harrow of his own contrivance, of which the following is a sketch.



The teeth of this harrow, by means of pressing it down by the handles, cut deep, and tear up all the weeds: the pieces of which it is composed, are stout and heavy.

Another purpose, for which the inventor found it admirably useful, is, the tearing up the couch-grass from out of the fallows. The drilled acre of Lucerne was kept clean the first year, with hand-hoes alone; but since it has been cleared with a horse-hoe, likewise of Mr. *Johnston's* invention; the thought of which, he seems to have taken from *M. du Chateauvieux's* double cultivator.



This hoe seems broken off before, because it goes on to the carriage of the plough when used. The two feet drills of Lucerne yielded something more than the others. The broad-cast piece, when I viewed it, was 12, 16, and 18 inches high, and had been cut twice; the drills were just cut the third time. Last year, the whole three acres fed eight horses, from the 2d of *May*, to the end of *September*: they eat, besides, an acre of tares; but as a part of the Lucerne was set aside for cutting into chaff, Mr. *Johnston* calculates, that the three acres, in effect, maintained them during that time.

The burnet experiments consist of one rood, drilled two feet asunder, and sowed last *August* twelvemonth: and one acre sown in drills, three feet, last *August*; they were

were both standing for seed, not having been cut this year; both very fine crops, but the latter remarkably so. Last year he fed cows and horses with the produce of the rood; both of which eat it very freely, and even with greediness.

These grasses, upon the whole, are found a very great improvement upon this dry gravelly land; which, however, has such a degree of richness in it, as to be worth 30 s. an acre.

The land continues very good from *Ilford* quite to *Chelmsford*, around *Burnt-wood*, which is 18 miles from *London*; it lets, in general, at 20 s. an acre. But the potatoe culture is entirely done with, in three or four miles this side of *Ilford*; although the soil is as good at a greater distance, and *London* near enough for the bringing any kind of manures. So profitable as the growth of this root is, I was surprized to find the cultivation of it extend no further. Between *Ingatston* and *Chelmsford*, the value of land declines; it lets around that country at a moderate price, considering the distance from *London*; from 7 s. to 1 l. per acre: the farms are not over-grown ones, from 20 l. and

30 l. to two or 300 l. Their course of crops, most common, is, 1. Fallow. 2. Wheat. 3. Oats, or pease; if the former, then, 4. Clover and ray-grass, for one or two years; but if pease, then fallow again, or turnips. They plough three times for wheat, sow two bushels; and reckon a middling crop at 2 qrs. and an half. For oats, they plough but once, sow four bushels; and reckon 3 qrs. the medium. Sometimes they sow beans, for which grain they give but one stirring, sow two bushels, hoe twice, and reap three qrs. on a medium. They plough twice or thrice for pease; sow two bushels, hoe them once or twice; and three quarters they reckon their mean crop. For turnips, they stir four times, and make the soil garden fine; hoe them twice, and use them in the feeding all kinds of cattle. —

Something of the general management of their farms will be seen from the following particulars of one. The rent 100 l. a year; for which the farmer has something above 250 acres; the greatest part of which is arable land. He keeps eight horses, 50 or 60 sheep, and 20 cows; and employs three or four men, and two boys.

boys, as yearly servants, besides three labourers. They reckon the profit of a cow at 3*l.* 10*s.* to lett it. They have but little notion of feeding hogs on clover. One circumstance I should not forget, and that is, their hollow drains, of which they do a great deal in their wet lands, and this excellent practice I found scarce any where but in *Essex* and *Suffolk*. They dig them 22 inches deep, and fill up with wood and straw; the price 2*d.* and 2½*d.* per rod.

LABOUR, &c.

In winter, 1*s.* 2*d.* a day.

In hay-time, 1*s.* 4*d.* and beer, and 1*s.* 6*d.*

In harvest, 1*s.* 6*d.* board and beer.

Reaping, 5*s.* per acre.

Mowing corn, 1*s.* and 1*s.* 2*d.*

———Grass, 2*s.* and 2*s.* 6*d.* and beer.

Hoeing turnips, first time, 4*s.* second, 2*s.*

———Beans and pease, 7*s.* twice.

Ploughing, per acre, 4*s.*

PROVISIONS, &c.

Bread, rather more than 1½*d.* per lb.

Butter, 8½*d.* Salt 7*d.*

Candles, 7½*d.*

Mutton, 4½*d.*

P

Beef,

Beef, 4 *d.*

Veal, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*

Coals at *Maldon*, 24 *s.* *per* Chalder.

Cheese, 4 *d.* ordinary sort, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*

New waggon, 25 *l.*

—Cart, 12 *l.*

Plough, 1 *l.* 10 *s.*

Harrows, 2 *l.* 5 *s.*

I forgot to tell you they use but two horses in a plough, and do an acre a day.

I asked a little farmer, in this neighbourhood, What was the employment of the labourer's wives and children? *Drinking tea*, he replied; and I cannot but remark, that I found the custom almost universal.

*

*

*

And now being arrived at *Chelmsford*, and the conclusion of my journey, thro' a country already described; you must allow me here, to finish this Letter, and my Tour. In my next I shall make some remarks on the substance of the preceding minutes, and draw forth such practical deductions, as will, I flatter myself, prove
this

this little journey to be, at least, not totally useless.

I remain, &c.

Chelmsford,
July 17th, 1767.

N. B. I found upon a journey I took from this place to *Bury*, that the road to *Hedingham* is excessive bad; and from *Sudbury*, to within two miles of *Bury*, still worse. Their method of mending in the last mentioned road, I found excessively absurd; for in nine parts out of ten of it, the sides are higher than the middle, and the gravel they bring in, is nothing but a yellow loam, with a few stones in it; through which, the wheels of a light chaise cut as easily as in sand, with the addition of such floods of watery mud, as render this road, on the whole, inferior to nothing but an unattended *Welsh* lane.

Chelmsford,
July 23d, 1767.

L E T T E R VIII.

I SHALL here, Sir, endeavour to make good my promise, of drawing some conclusions from the variety of preceding minutes; and aim, at least, at shewing you the use attending a knowledge of the agriculture, and rural œconomics of our own country, acquired on the spot. I flatter myself, that my arduous inquiries will not prove entirely trivial or useless, but will exhibit some local peculiarities in practical husbandry, which ought to become more general; and by comparing every where the prices of labour and provision, see if a balance can possibly be discovered.

Without further introduction, I shall begin with the crops, which in some places are so much superior to others; and examine what reasons are apparently the cause; at the same time remarking if there is a general balance between the rent and the produce.

In the improved lands in *Norfolk*, I found the mean produce of wheat, 4 quarters.

Of barley, 5 ditto.

Rent, 5 s.

On

On an improved farm at *Tostock*, near
Bury in Suffolk:

			Quarters.
Wheat,	-	-	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Barley,	-	-	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Rent,	-	-	14 s.

Another : Barley and Oats,			8
Wheat,	-	-	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Rent,	-	-	16 s.

Between *Dartford* and *Shooter's-bill* :

Wheat,	-	-	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Barley,	-	-	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Rent,	-	-	20 s.

About *Stoken Church*, in *Oxfordshire*:

Barley,	-	-	5
Rent,	-	-	10 s.

About *Cotswould-hills* :

Wheat,	-	-	3
Barley,	-	-	3
Rent,	-	-	5 s. 6 d.

Between *Gilford* and *Ripley* :

Barley,	-	-	4
Pease,	-	-	4
Rent,	-	-	12 s. 6 d.

P 3

About

				Quarters,
About <i>Ilford</i> in <i>Essex</i> :				
Wheat,	-	-	-	4
Barley,	-	-	-	5
Rent,	-	-	-	30s.

From this slight sketch, it appears that the rent bears no sort of proportion to the produce of the soil, but is guided totally by accident. It is extremely remarkable, that the mean quantity of wheat, on the richest soils, and with the best husbandry, should never exceed 6 quarters and $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre, and that in the neighbourhood of the capital itself. I very much question whether I should ever find a greater produce, if this 'Tour was extended over the whole kingdom. If the nature of the broad-cast husbandry would not admit a greater crop, I should not be surprized at this; but it is an absolute fact, that 18 quarters of wheat have been produced by a statute acre of land, in the common method of cultivation: that is, by the broad-cast sowing. The immense deficiency, therefore, of the generality of crops, must be owing to the farmers sowing their ground too often, or to a want of suffi-

sufficient tillage, or plentiful manuring. There are strong reasons for attributing it to these causes; it is remarkable, that the best produce of all, was off but a *middling* soil at best, the *Kentish* one, but improved by manuring to a great pitch. The next greatest produce of wheat, is from the improved farms in *Suffolk*; both a naturally bad soil for that grain; but by means of excellent management, made to yield more than others of twice the rent. The next is about *Ilford* in *Essex*, and the improved lands in *Norfolk*; which are soils very far from being well adapted to this grain, and yet the crops they are made to produce are very considerable. Upon the whole, those soils, which are naturally the worst, but improved by manures, and well cultivated, I have universally found to yield the greatest crops. What a pregnant proof is four quarters, on a medium, growing on the *Norfolk* sheep-walks!

These facts should give all husbandmen a just idea of the vast importance of proper tillage, cropping, and manures; that there be always a sufficiency of the first and the last, and never too much of the other. Since very poor soils, and even

such as have been reputed barren, are made by these means to exceed the naturally fertile ones in produce.

Natural fertility is consequently of long standing, and the rents of course high, the farmers therefore think they cannot pay their rents if their land be not almost perpetually cropped; not from a real height in the rent itself, but from the comparison they make with others who pay less. But these, on the contrary, knowing how much more is paid by others, and being impressed from custom, as it were, with an idea, that rent is no great matter, are not induced to pass by the fallow years, or those of rest under grasses: and the same contrast holds with respect to manures; he who pays a trifle, thinks he can afford to manure for that reason, and those who pay five times as much, are persuaded they cannot therefore venture any expence of that sort; the consequence of which circumstances is, the former, upon poor land, are more able to pay a great price for a bad soil, than the latter are a small rent for a good one. The richness of the land is not therefore of so much importance to the cultivator, and, of course, to the

the nation at large, as a lively, vigorous, and judicious culture of it.

In respect to crops, of an uncommon sort, or at least not generally cultivated, the profit appears to be vastly greater, than from corn or natural grafs. This is particularly the case, with hops about *Hedingham* and *Farnham*: a middling crop, at the former place, amounts to 35 *l.* an acre; and at the latter, more than double that sum. This latter produce is, indeed, exceedingly great; but allowing for any little exaggeration in the account, yet great deductions may be made, and vast profit left; besides, the rent of the land there rises to a greater price than in any part of the kingdom I am acquainted with, even to 9 *l.* an acre. Nothing in the common husbandry ever equals those products of hops; nor are the expences upon them so great, as to reduce hop-planting to a mean with the general agriculture; for they seldom rise to 20 *l.* an acre at *Hedingham*, and not much above 30 *l.* at *Farnham*. But as these expences are infinitely greater than what attends the usual system of farming, much fewer people have the substance necessary for undertaking this

gar-

garden husbandry, which renders the profit the more considerable.

I have examined in a great number of places, fields which would produce hops equally well with any about *Heddingham*, and that lett for a common rent, in which the hop culture would be an infinite improvement: but common farmers, and even the generality of landlords, have no strong ideas of the utmost profit to which they might employ their soils.

Next to hops, potatoes are the most beneficial vegetable that I have met with. Their culture in *Essex* is exceeding profitable; taken up in *July*, when they are not above one fourth grown, they yield 40 sacks *per acre*, on a medium, and in money, from 25*l.* to 35*l.* an acre; sometimes more, which is very great; nor are the expences upon them high; and a peculiar benefit attending them, is the excellency of their nature, in sweetening and ameliorating the soil; the extreme thickness of shade they yield covers the soil entirely, and renders it very mellow; they find them the best preparers for any kind of grain.

It is astonishing their culture is not more common ; for any ley ground does for them that is tolerably rich, and the worst soils will bear plentiful crops of them, if well dunged. As to the part of *Essex* where they are most common, being very near to *London*, the argument proves nothing against the extension of the practice, because, other places are equally near *London*, that do not plant them ; and vast tracts of land that have water-carriage might convey their crops to the capital at a less expence, though five times further distant, for all the *Essex* ones are carried by land.—As Lucerne and Burnet are yet cultivated chiefly in small quantities ; and no where the *common* crops of any place I have seen, I shall speak of them when I come to consider, what I call experimental agriculture.

The variations I met with in the courses of crops—in the introduction of ameliorating ones—and the maxims of fallowing are great ; but less in fallowing than any other. In the prodigiously improved lands of *Norfolk*, fallowing is scarcely known, and vast are the crops they grow without it.

On

On the improved farm at *Tostoc*, near *Bury*, the land is never fallowed.

Between that place and *Lavenham*, they fallow for wheat ; sometimes for barley.

Between *Braintree* and *Chelmsford*, for both wheat and barley.

About *Dartford* and *Shooter's-hill* in *Kent*, and around *Wycmb* in *Buckinghamshire*, not at all.

From *Tetsford* to *Oxford*, *Witney* ; and again, between *Frog-mill* and *Crickly-hill*, for barley.

Between *Newnham* and *Chepstow*, quite down to *Bridgend* ; and across the *Severne* through all the tract of country round *Bristol* and *Bath* to *Devizes*, across *Salisbury* plain to that city, and thence through *Winchester* and *Gilford* to *London* ; and, lastly, to *Chelmsford*, a line of country of about 240 miles, it is all fallow for wheat. But I should remark, that this uniform husbandry has no general cause in the nature of the soil ; on the contrary, it is in many places inferior to other methods ; for they fallow, as I have already minuted, where the land is perfectly well adapted to turnips and clover ; in which case there
should

should be no fallowing, but barley sown after turnips, and wheat after clover.

Of the ameliorating, or *fallow crops*, pease and beans (as I have already mentioned potatoes) claim the first notice: and in no article of husbandry have I found greater contrasts than in these. I shall first minute the chief variations, and then explain the causes of them; the rent I add merely by way of an index, to the common nature of the country.

In Marjland, Norfolk:

			Quarters.
Mean crop,	-	-	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rent,	-	-	20 s.

Between Bury and Hadleigh, Suffolk:

Crop,	-	-	4
Rent,	-	-	13 s.

Between Braintree and Chelmsford, Essex:

Crop,	-	-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto, pease,	-	-	5
Rent,	-	-	16 s.

Be-

Between *Woodstock* and *Witney*, *Oxfordshire*: Quarters.

Crop,	-	-	-	3½
Rent,	-	-	15 s. 6 d.	

Cotswould Hills, *Gloucestershire*:

Crop,	-	-	-	3
Rent,	-	-	5 s. 6 d.	

Between *Chepstow* and *Newport*, *Monmouthshire*:

Crop, not	-	-	-	2
Rent,	-	-	8 s.	

Around *Cowbridge*, *Glamorganshire*:

Crop, less than	-	-	-	2
Rent,	-	-	10 s.	

Near the *Devises*, towards *Salisbury*, *Wilts*:

Crop,	-	-	-	3
Rent,	-	-	5 s.	

Between *Salisbury* and *Romsey*, *Hampshire*:

Crop,	-	-	-	2
Rent,	-	-	16 s.	

Between *Gilford* and *Ripley*, *Surrey*:

Crop, pease,	-	-	-	4
Rent,	-	-	12 s.	

About

About *Ilford, Essex* :

Crop, garden pease, 6, 7, or 8 A

Rent, - - - 30 s.

These crops call for some very obvious remarks : rent we find has nothing to do with them, if the soil is in any measure to be judged of by it ; good crops of beans proceed from other circumstances more than from the richness of the land. By much the worst crops, in this table, are those in *Monmouthshire*, *Glamorganshire*, and part of *Wiltshire* and *Hampshire* ; the rents of which tracts appear to be, on a medium, as high as any of the others ; but if you turn to the preceding passages, wherein an account is given of their culture, you will find these are the only places where they do not hoe them. The medium of those tracts, which hoe, is about 4 quarters and $\frac{1}{2}$; from whence it appears, that those slovenly farmers, who omit this necessary operation, lose, at least, the amount of their crops, for want of following better examples. I reasoned with several of them, on this part of their practice ; but they said, They never heard of such a thing, 'twould never do, and could not answer.

With

With turnips, the difference is yet greater, between the right husbandry of that vegetable, as practised in *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Essex*, &c. and as they are managed in *Wales*, and about *Burchalke*, near *Salisbury*: for of all crops, none require hoeing so much; there is none that will pay so well for that operation, the value of them being very trifling without it. The extensive use of them is known but little of, except in *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, and *Essex*; that is, all the uses to which they may with profit be applied, one or two places excepted. I found no farmers, but in those counties, that understood any thing of the husbandry of fattening cattle with them; feeding lean sheep, being the only use they put them to. A universal loss attending a bad culture of beans and turnips, is the loss of a year for a poor crop; for nothing is a better preparation for corn, than these vegetables, when kept perfectly clean, but none worse, when managed in a slovenly manner: and accordingly we find, that where they plough and hoe thoroughly, their best crops of corn succeed these fallow ones.

The

The clover husbandry I found universal, from the north of *Norfolk*, to the further end of *Glamorganshire*. Some variations I found in the management of it, but none so striking as those mentioned in the article of turnips. The worst is the sowing of hop-clover in *Wiltshire* and *Hampshire*, which paltry species is not comparable to the common broad clover. Ray-grass is likewise sown much too universally; I found it frequently on soils by far too good for it; broad clover alone, is infinitely preferable, except on very light land.

The variations in the courses of crops I found pretty considerable.

In the marked parts of *Norfolk*, it is;

- 1 Wheat,
- 2 Turnips,
- 3 Barley,
- 4 Clover and Ray-grass.

In the improved farm, near *Bury*, in *Suffolk*;

- 1 Turnips,
- 2 Barley,
- 3 Clover,
- 4 Wheat.

Q

About

About *Hedingham*, in *Essex*:

- 1 Fallow,
- 2 Wheat,
- 3 Pease,
- 4 Wheat,
- 5 Turnips,
- 6 Barley,
- 7 Clover.

If the third or fourth crop of this course is well manured for, it is a very good one, on rich lands.

Between *Braintree* and *Chelmsford*:

- 1 Fallow,
- 2 Barley,
- 3 Clover,
- 4 Wheat.

Nothing can exceed this course upon lands too heavy for turnips. Sometimes they vary it, but for the worse:

- 1 Fallow,
- 2 Wheat,
- 3 Barley,
- 4 Wheat.

No manuring can make the last crop of wheat a good one. For very rich lands, the

the course between *Dartford* and *Shooter's-hill* is excellent :

- 1 Pease,
- 2 Turnips,
- 3 Barley,
- 4 Clover,
- 5 Wheat.

About *Stoken Church*, in *Gloucestershire* :

- 1 Fallow,
- 2 Wheat,
- 3 Spring-corn,
- 4 Clover.

Between *Tetsford* and *Oxford* :

- 1 Wheat,
- 2 Beans,
- 3 Barley,
- 4 Fallow,
- 5 Barley,
- 6 Clover.

This is a strange course for any soil. It is the same between *Woodstock* and *Witney*. About *Sherborn* on *Cotswold-hills*, *Gloucestershire*.

- 1 Fallow,
- 2 Wheat,
- 3 Pease,
- 4 Barley.

Between *Newnham* and *Chepstow*, *Gloucestershire*.

- 1 Fallow,
- 2 Wheat,
- 3 Pease,
- 4 Oats,
- 5 Turnips,
- 6 Barley,
- 7 Clover,
- 8 Wheat, exceeding good.

Between *Chepstow* and *Newport* :

- 1 Fallow,
- 2 Wheat,
- 3 Barley,
- 4 Oats,
- 5 Ray-grass and clover.

But of all others, I beg you will remark the following, about *Cambridge* in *Worcestershire*.

- 1 Wheat,
- 2 Barley,
- 3 Oats,
- 4 Oats,
- 5 Fallow.

Between *Devizes* and *Salisbury* :

- 1 Fallow,
- 2 Wheat,
- 3 Barley,
- 4 Hop-clover, &c.

Around *Salisbury* :

- 1 Fallow,
- 2 Wheat,
- 3 Barley,
- 4 Oats, pease or beans.

Between *Aylresford* and *Alton*, in *Hampshire*, a very odd course :

- 1 Turnips,
- 2 Barley,
- 3 Grasses, 2 years,
- 4 Fallow,
- 5 Wheat,
- 6 Barley.

Between *Guildford* and *Ripley* in *Surry* :

- 1 Fallow,
- 2 Wheat,
- 3 Spring-corn,
- 4 Clover,
- 5 Wheat,
- 6 Beans.

Q 3

About

About *Ilford* in *Essex*:

- 1 Fallow,
- 2 Wheat,
- 3 Oats,
- 4 Turnips,
- 5 Barley,
- 6 Clover,
- 7 Potatoes.

There are more to commend, upon the whole, in these courses, than in any other article mentioned yet; for the husbandry of introducing a crop of pulse, roots, or grass between every two of corn, is very prevalent, and an excellent principle it is. If we except the *Welsh* courses, which are very bad, and one or two more, a crop, and fallow, or *fallow crop*, are universal. In the long courses it appears how sensible the farmers are, that corn will not bear any repetitions, with so much profit in the long run, as by introducing either leguminous crops or roots.

This article of cropping judiciously, is of infinite importance. How is it possible that any land, be it ever so well ploughed and manured, can support *four* successive crops of corn, upon the strength of one
fal-

fallow? according to the custom about *Cowbridge*, in *Glamorganshire*! It is absolutely impossible that good crops can be gained by such husbandry; for the last two must be over-run with tumpery and weeds, without any strength to get the better of them.

No course can exceed that of turnips, barley, clover, wheat; when the land is so dry and sound as to yield good turnips, and admit their being fed or carried off, and at the same time rich enough to produce wheat; which circumstances I take to be of all others, the strongest proofs of a good soil. But even this course has been found liable to objections: in the turnip and clover countries, the most sensible farmers are persuaded their lands become surfeited with them; insomuch, that after a long repetition of this course, scarce any turnips can be gained, without much dung on the same fields, which, at first, produced plentifully without any. And their clovers they find rise thin, die in the winter, and wear out very soon. The remedy wanting in this case, is a substitute for each of these crops. In light soils,

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none

none are comparable to carrots and potatoes; and I might observe, that they will grow in much heavier ones than commonly imagined. I have cultivated them myself, in no inconsiderable quantities, on a good wheat soil, and with great success; and in heavy lands, cabbages thrive, with proper management, in an extraordinary manner. These crops would serve to vary the course instead of turnips, and the ground would bear the repetition of three much better than of one crop. Instead of clover, sainfoin and lucerne should be introduced, which would last in the soil five years, in perfect vigour, and form by that time a turf, the breaking up of which, would yield an extraordinary profit. I do not, by any means, recommend these plants to the exclusion of clover, for I am very sensible of its prodigious value, but only to introduce them in rounds, when the soil is tired of the latter.

The importance of manuring, I found in general better understood than I expected. Marling has been for many years, and is at present practised in the utmost perfection in *Norfolk*; where likewise the folding of sheep is carried on very regularly,

larly, and oil cakes purchased, even from *Holland*, to enrich their wheat lands. The farmers indeed around *Lynn* have none of these ideas, or they would not let an hundred load of coal-ashes be washed every year into the river.

About *Bury* in *Suffolk*, they purchase the manures arising in that town at a vast expence; and with such eagerness, that were the town half as big as *London*, they would buy them all.

Between *Sudbury* and *Braintree* in *Essex*, they are very careful in forming composts of chalk, dung and turf.

All round *London*, at a small distance, they have a proper idea of bringing various sorts of manures; but at the distance of 10, 12, and 18 miles, they do not by any means bring a twentieth part of the quantity which they ought; considering what rich sorts they might procure at a small expence.

The use of lime is perfectly well known in the hundreds of *Essex*, and brought in waggons from a great distance, and at a vast expence; even to 10*l.* an acre. Liming is likewise the great manure in those parts of *Wales* through which I passed.

passed. They have it amazingly cheap, and find the effects of it very beneficial. But the *Welsh* farmers are strangely deficient in not folding their sheep; many of them have tolerable flocks; but no such thing as a fold in all the country I saw.

The manure arising in the farm yards, I found every where taken care of, and spread upon the fields. They were carrying it out in many places as I passed along. The mixing it likewise with turf dug in the high-way, I remarked was universal.

The manure arising from burning the surface, I first met with in *Gloucestershire*: they find it extremely beneficial, if not practised too often; it cleans the soil greatly, and enriches it equally; nor do turnips, particularly, ever fail the year they pare and burn; and the expence, at which they have the operation performed, is very trifling, from 14 s. to 20 s. *per acre*. This method would answer greatly in many parts of the eastern counties, but they have no idea of it; except burning the sedgey turf and stubble in the isle of *Ely*. It is, beyond all doubt, the best way of breaking up old and bad pastures, and fitting them for corn. It is a ridiculous notion, to
suppose

suppose it fit only for wet lands, since in the parts of *Gloucestershire* and *Wales* through which I passed, they practise it to great profit on very dry ones.

The variations I found in the article of the manner of tillage, were extremely great, and form an instance of as mistaken management as any I met with. This will appear very evident, from the following table of soils, strength, and quantity ploughed *per day*.

Improved parts of *Norfolk*.

Light turnip-land:

2 Horses,

2 Acres.

Across *Suffolk* and to *Braintree* in *Essex*.

Light, loamy, and some heavy bean-land:

2 Horses,

1 Acre.

At Lord *Clare's*, in *Essex*.

Loam too heavy for turnips:

2 Oxen,

1 Acre.

Be-

Between *Braintree* and *Chelmsford*.

Mixed soils, both light and heavy; turnips and beans:

3 Horses, sometimes four,
1 Acre.

Between *Acton* and *Uxbridge*, *Middlesex*.

Both light and heavy; turnip and bean-land:

4 Horses in a line,
1 Acre.

Around *Wycomb*, in *Buckinghamshire*.

Light soil; bears good turnips:

5 Horses, often six,
From $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 acre.

About *Stoke Church*, in *Oxfordshire*.

Chalky soil:

6 Horses,
1 Acre.

Near *Sherborn*, on *Cotswold-hills*, *Gloucestershire*.

Light, but chalky and poor:

4 Horses,
1 Acre.

From

From *North Leach*, through *Gloucestershire*,
Monmouthshire, and *Glamorganshire*.

Light and middling turnip-land, &c.

Eight oxen; never less than six; or
four, and two horses,

From $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 acre.

Between the *Devizes* and *Salisbury*.

Light and middling; great quantities
of turnips:

4 Horses, never less than three,
Scarce one acre.

In the neighbourhood of *Salisbury*.

Various soils, but in general light:

3 and 5 horses,

1 Acre.

Through *Hampshire*.

Light dry soil in general:

4 Horses,

1 Acre.

Between *Guilford* and *Cobham* in *Surry*.

Much sand; and light loam:

4 Horses; and often more,

4, 6, and 8 oxen,

$\frac{1}{2}$ Acre, light soil,

1 Acre, heavy.

About

About *Ilford, Essex*.

Gravel:

2 Horses,

1 Acre.

If you cast your eye lightly over this table, it will surely be evident, at once, what a waste of strength is common, thro' nine parts in ten of this tract of country. I should remark to you, that in many places where only two horses plough an acre a day, particularly in *Suffolk* and *Essex*, the soil is to the full as heavy, as in any of the other counties, wherein six and eight oxen are used : six horses I have seen at plough, upon tilt turnip-land, which was level ; where the hills are steep, one horse or a yoke of oxen might reasonably be added ; but the farmers in those parts use as many in a light level sand, as in a stiff and hilly loam ; and what is as strange, do as little in a day.

If the excess was only in oxen, the matter would not be of such general bad consequence ; but to think of innumerable horses being kept to starve the people ; which is literally the case, and meerly in compliance with the obstinacy of the low
 peo-

people, (for I believe the labourers are the great patrons of the practice; and will not touch a plough without the usual number of beasts in it) is a public misfortune: to see vast tracts of the kingdom cultivated, with such useless numbers of horses, and at the same time worse managed than other heavier parts, where not half the number are used, is a very melancholy sight; and ought to influence the nobility and gentry, in those mistaken parts, to use all their power with their tenants, to make them break through such vile customs.

Even upon the hills, their method of ploughing is absurd; for they generally cut their furrows up and down the side, instead of across it; by which means, twice the strength is necessary to plough; —the goodness of the land is washed out with hasty showers;—and the crop damaged into the bargain. In more level countries, I have always observed the best husbandmen, direct the ploughing across the slope of an accidental hill they may have, for reasons obvious enough amongst them; but not so plain to idle fellows, in this indolent country, who like to go in possees of men and beasts to their work.

and who would insist upon a driver for ~~one~~ horse, if he was brought to use but one. In short, I venture to assert, that, in *all* the tract of country, through which I passed, *one half*, at least, of the draught cattle, taken at a medium, might be dispensed with; for though in ~~many~~ parts only two horses are used, yet the more than double in others would allow of ~~half~~ the total being deducted. You will easily perceive what a public benefit this would be. If the clamours on account of the high prices of provisions have a good foundation, they should induce these mistaken people, who plough with five or six horses, because their fathers did, (and would with 15, had it heretofore been the custom) to lessen their teams one half, and apply half the land, on which they grow double the quantity of oats they want, to the culture of wheat; and the ground which supports them in summer, to the fattening of such cattle as are food for man, instead of such as come only to the kennel. — I found the use of oxen rather wearing out, even in the ox counties. These remarks remind me of the methods by which hogs are in general maintained. Those animals are of

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infinite importance to the nation, in yielding such vast quantities of meat: and if a scarcity of provisions, in general, is now, or was to be the case, nothing could sooner remedy it, than increasing the stock of swine; a business infinitely more easy to perform, than an increase of either sheep or large cattle. It is remarkable, that the husbandry of feeding hogs with clover, is tolerably known only across the county of *Suffolk*, and a part of *Essex*, of the whole tour. They almost every where keep no more than their mere dairies would maintain, and where they were small, their grains and rubbish corn. Between *Woodstock* and *Witney*, a clover country, they feed their hogs in summer with beans; whereas in *Suffolk* it is common to shut a parcel of the quarter or half-grown hogs into a field of clover, if it has a pond in it, the latter end of *May*, and never take them out till *Michaelmas*; and they are found to thrive incomparably with that food alone. The whey, skim-milk, and grains, they keep for their sows and pigs, and other small hogs; too young to feed on clover alone; nor can a field of that grass be turned to so much profit by any other management.

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ment. Lucky hits, may in feeding it, turn out to vast profit; but in more common, and more certain ways of managing it, either by making hay, or feeding with other cattle, the profit by hogs is found much superior. I cannot, therefore, avoid wishing, that this excellent article of husbandry was more known and practised; as I am certain it would not only prove of very great use to the farmers, but yield a much greater plenty of pork, than the present smaller number of hogs can do. All the farmers I talked with, on this subject, however, gave, I could perceive, but little credit to what I told them; for their notion of clover is, that 'tis twenty to one, but it bursts and kills half the cattle turned into it. A cow or a bullock turned in, while wet with the dew, and very hungry, will now and then burst; but I never within my own experience knew it, nor ever heard at home, of its affecting a hog so.

During the whole journey, you have certainly remarked, that I was very attentive to the rent of the land: I wanted to discover the mean value of that part of the kingdom, through which I passed, and to observe what portion was waste and un-

uncultivated. 'Tis true, my journey was so small, compared with the whole extent of the kingdom, that few general calculations or maxims can be founded upon the result of it; but the want of perfection is no reason against using those means, which are in our power of arriving as near it as possible; persons more intelligent, and possessed of better means of smoothing difficulties, though not more active, may one day or other complete the tour of the whole kingdom upon some plan of this nature; that political arithmeticians may have a good foundation for their calculations, instead of hazarding them upon mere guess-work and conjecture. Always remember that I, in no instance, offer you these minutes as any thing perfect, but only as a slight specimen of what I wish was in my power to complete. Was this little journey extended over the rest of *England*, I should have it in my power to speak in other terms, than those I use at present.

From the sea-coast of *Norfolk*, almost across the country to *Northwold*, in the road to *Thetford*, the soil is generally cultivated; here and there, a mile or half a

R 2

mile

mile of sheep-walk may be found ; (to the western corner, about *Snettisham*, a good deal) but in general it is but little. This line of country, upon the whole, letts, I believe, on a medium, at 6 s. or 7 s. an acre. From *Northwold* to *Thetford*, is an uncultivated tract of sheep-walk.

From *Thetford* to *Ingham*, in general uncultivated : then to *Bury*, light land, but cultivated ; mean rent about 3 s. 6 d. or 4 s. an acre. Here we have reckoned one line of uncultivated land ; which is near 16 miles across. Another line across it, is from *Culford* to *Brandon*, ten miles. Another from *Newmarket* to *Brandon*, sixteen. Upon the whole, I believe, there is a square of about twenty miles of uncultivated sheep-walks and warrens.

From *Bury* by *Hadleigh*, to *Sudbury*, and to *Braintree*, the soil is good, and well cultivated ; and letts, upon a medium, at about 12 s. or 13 s. per acre.

From *Braintree* to *Chelmsford*, and to *Billericay*, it is yet better ; letts for about 16 s. and from thence down to *Tilbury* fort, at about 10 s.

The mean rent, therefore, across the county of *Norfolk*, and a part of *Suffolk*,

as

as far as *Bury*, is about 5 s. or 5 s. 6 d. an acre. This is a line of 70 miles.

From *Bury* across the rest of *Suffolk* and all *Essex*, to *Tilbury* Fort, which is 70 miles more, the mean rent is about 13 s. 6 d. or 14 s. an acre.

About *Gravesend*, in *Kent*, some at 8 s. and others at 1 l. and 1 l. 10 s. Between *Dartford* and *Shooter's hill*, at 20 s. Nearer *London*, and before you come to the gardens, it runs up to 2 l. From *London* to *Barnet*; all grass; letts from 40 s. to 3 l. From *Barnet* to the *Mimms*, about 12 s. From *Guilford* to *London*, 30 miles, about 12 s. From *London* to *Burntwood*, 17 miles, 35 s. * From *London*, another way, to *Uxbridge*, 30 s.

Here is a tract of country around *London*, five several ways out of it, and from 20 to 30 miles distance; the medium of rents is about 30 s. an acre. But I believe if a circle of 30 miles was taken, and all its contents, barren land, forests and all; the mean rent would not amount to near 20 s. which is a scandalous circumstance to the agriculture of that proud neighbourhood; every spot of which, is within reach of more manures, than any three cities in *Europe* can boast.

* Reckoned by the *Stratford* road, and not the *Forest*.

From *Uxbridge* to *Stoken Church*, which crosses the county of *Buckingham* 27 miles; the mean rent is about 10 s. an acre.

From *Stoken Church* to *Tetsford*, 10 s. From *Tetsford* to *Oxford*, inclosed 20 s. open 9 s. From *Oxford* to *Witney*, about 15 s. From thence to *North Leach*, 7 s. This line across *Oxfordshire*, about 40 miles. I believe the medium will be found about 11 s. considering how small a part is inclosed.

From *North Leach* to *Crickly-hill*, about 5 s. From thence to *Gloucester*, 16 s. From thence to *Newnham*, 12 s. From thence to *Chepstow*, 14 s. This line extends 50 miles through *Gloucestershire*, and the medium rent I calculate at 10 s. 6 d. or 11 s.

From *Chepstow* to *Newport*, 14 s. From *Newport* to *Bridgend*, 12 s. This is a line of about 50 miles. Medium, 12 s. 3 d. or 12 s. 6 d.

From the passage to *Bristol*, 25 s. From *Bristol* to *Bath*, 7 s. From *Bath* to the *Devizes*, 20 s. This cut through *Somersetshire*, and the rich part of *Wiltshire*, for 40 miles, lets on a medium at 19 s.

From the *Devizes* to *Salisbury*, mostly sheep-

sheep-walk, but including the adjoining farms, 22 miles, 5 s.

From *Salisbury* to *Winchester*, 12 s. About *Crux Easton*, 9 s. From *Winchester* to *Alresford*, 9 s. From thence to *Alton*, 7 s. 6 d. From thence to *Farnham*, 17 s. This line extends across *Hampshire*, near 50 miles, and I reckon the medium, 12 s.

From *Farnham* to *Guilford*, about 8 s. The circle around *London*, before sketched, concludes it.

The Tour lies through about 600 miles of various country: the following little summary will assist in forming a general medium:

	Miles.	l.	s.	d.
<i>Norfolk</i> to <i>Bury</i> in <i>Suffolk</i> ,	70—0	5	0	
<i>Suffolk</i> and <i>Essex</i> , - -	70—0	13	6	
Across the <i>London</i> circle, -	40—1	10	0	
<i>Buckinghamshire</i> , - -	27—0	10	0	
<i>Oxfordshire</i> , - -	40—0	11	0	
<i>Gloucestershire</i> , - -	50—0	10	6	
<i>Monmouth</i> and <i>Glamorgan-</i>				
<i>shires</i> , - -	50—0	12	6	
<i>Somersetshire</i> , and part of				
<i>Wiltshire</i> , - -	40—0	19	0	
<i>Wiltshire</i> , - -	22—0	5	0	
<i>Hampshire</i> , - -	50—0	12	0	
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I have calculated these several proportions, and believe the general medium is 12 s. 7 d. per acre. I must repeat again, That you are not to expect an absolute accuracy in such a sketch as this; mistakes, doubtless, there will be, but I apprehend these mediums are *near* the truth.

Before I finish these points, you must allow me to mention two things more: The roads, and the management of timber. As to the first, I chiefly travelled upon turnpikes; of all which, that from *Salisbury*, to four miles the other side of *Rumsey*, towards *Winchester*, is, without exception, the finest I ever saw. The trustees of that road, highly deserve all the praise that can be given, by every one who travels it, for their excellent management: to management the goodness of that road must be owing; for fine as their materials are, yet I have in other roads met with as fine; but never with any that were so firmly united, and kept so totally free from loose stones, rutts and water: and, when I add water, let me observe, that it is not by that vile custom of cutting grips for it to run off, to the dislocation of one's bones in crossing them, and to the
utter

utter destruction of all common beauty resulting from levelness; but by rendering the surface so immoveably firm, that carriages make no holes for it to settle in; and having every where a gentle fall, it runs immediately off. To conclude the whole, it is every where broad enough for three carriages to pass each other; and lying in straight lines, with an even edge of grass the whole way, it has more the appearance of an elegant gravel walk, than of an high-road.

Next to this uncommon road, the great north one to *Barnet*, I think, must be ranked. Then the *Kentish* one: and the others to *Chelmsford* and *Uxbridge* succeed. Next I rank the 18 miles of finished road, from *Cowbridge* in *Glamorganshire*, to six miles this side of *Cardiff*. As to all the rest, it is a prostitution of language to call them turnpikes; I rank them nearly in the same class, with the dark lanes from *Billericay* to *Tilbury* fort. Among the bad ones, however, some parts of the road from *Tetsford* to *Gloucester*, are much better than the unmended parts from *Gloucester* to the good road above mentioned, on this side of *Cardiff*. The latter is all terrible; but then it
is

is a great extenuation, to observe that they have been at work but two years. Much more to be condemned, is the execrable muddy road from *Bury* to *Sudbury* in *Suffolk*; in which I was forced to move as slow as in any unmended lane in *Wales*: For ponds of liquid dirt, and a scattering of loose flints, just sufficient to lame every horse that moves near them, with the addition of cutting vile grips across the road, under pretence of letting water off, but without the effect *, all together render, at least, 12 out of these 16 miles, as infamous a turnpike as ever was travelled.— The road likewise from *Chelmsford* to *Heddingham*, though not so bad, is something in the same stile; which is the more disagreeable, as it used to be much better.

* The hacknied argument, that the water must be carried off, is of some force, with regard to the bye roads, wherein the rutts are single deep channels, but of none with turnpikes; for it is mere child's play, to pretend to call a road a turnpike one, that lies so low in the center, or has rutts deep enough to require grips to let the water off; and unless the rutts are single and deep, as in cross roads, grips may be cut for ever without effect; for where there is so much thick mud, they are eternally filling up again. The only way to lay a road dry, is to have every where a gentle slope, and *no rutts*; for without these circumstances are effected, the gates may take money from travellers, but will never give tolerable roads in return.

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As to *Norfolk* and her *natural roads*, the boast of the inhabitants, who repeat with vanity, the saying of *Charles II*d; all I have to remark is, that I know not one mile of excellent road in the whole county. One furlong upon the *Salisbury* turnpike, above-mentioned, is worth all that nature or art has done for travellers, in the whole county of *Norfolk*. Bad, however, as all natural roads are, part of the *Norfolk* ones, it must be allowed, exceed the *Suffolk* turnpike.

As to the management of timber, I have only to say, that from *Gravesend*, in *Kent*, across the kingdom, and down to *Bridgend*, in *Glamorganshire*, and then back again to *London* and *Chelmsford*, the trees are all (with some few exceptions in *Hampshire*) stripped up like May-poles, which they nearly resemble, when fresh stripped, with only a little tuft of leaves on the top. This is a most barbarous custom; destroys the beauty of the country, and is absolutely ruinous to timber. *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, and a part of *Essex*, are, however, exempt from this detestable practice.

You will now permit me to examine the prices of provisions and labour; which I
have

have hitherto only minuted, without explaining the reasons why I was so particular upon these articles. In the first place, I shall take the article bread.

In *Kent*, 12 miles from *London*; in *Middlesex*, 12 miles; in *Surry*, 10 miles; in *Hertfordshire*, 16; in *Essex*, 6. At all these distances, bread was 2 *d.* per *lb.* except in *Essex*, where I found it 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* At *London*, it is 2 *d.* upon the whole it may be called 2 *d.* with the deduction of a very slight fraction.

As to the rest of the kingdom, I found it every where the same, except twice; once in *Hampshire* 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* and once in *Essex* better than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* But to balance this, near *Gloucester* I found it better than 2 *d.*

I was not surprized to find this article upon a general level; for wheat being a commodity easily transported, will certainly be eat at *London*, as cheap as in the extremities of the kingdom. Indeed I knew not how to reconcile the accounts I met with in news-papers, of wheat selling so much dearer in the western markets, than the eastern ones; and at places where the measure was only nine gallons; for I have often observed 10, 15, and even 20 *s.* a quar-

quarter difference between the *Norfolk*, and the west of *England* prices, whereas bread is of the same price every where. There must be some unknown circumstances or mistakes to occasion such a seeming variation.

Wheat, as I before observed, is a commodity that may be moved with the greatest ease, but this is not the case with butter; the first, therefore, does not shew the influence of the capital, but the latter does in a very striking manner, of which the following table will convince you.

<i>Places.</i>	<i>Distance from London.</i>	<i>Prices.</i>
<i>Norfolk</i> , - - -	120 M.	- 6 <i>d.</i>
<i>Suffolk</i> , - - -	70 - -	- 6
<i>Essex</i> , about <i>Hedingham</i> ,	55 - -	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
— about <i>Braintree</i> ,	42 - -	6
— <i>Billericay</i> , - -	20 - -	8.
<i>Kent</i> , between <i>Dartford</i> and		
<i>Shooter's-hill</i> , - -	12 - -	8
<i>Middlesex</i> , <i>Hays</i> , - -	12 - -	8
<i>Oxfordshire</i> , <i>Stoken Church</i> ,	40 - -	7
— <i>Witney</i> , about	60 - -	6
<i>Gloucester</i> , - - -	107 - -	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Monmouthshire</i> , <i>Newport</i> ,	153 - -	5
<i>Glamorganshire</i> , <i>Cowbridge</i> ,	175 - -	5

I should,

I should, however, remark, that at *Newnham*, in *Gloucestershire*, 125, it was $6\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* and between *Chepstow* and *Newport* 6 *d.* which variations I attributed to the *Bristol* market boats constantly buying up all sorts of provisions. Across the kingdom; therefore, we find the prices of butter vary, in proportion to the distance of *London*: the return by another road will prove it equally strong :

Places.	Distance from London.	Prices.
About <i>Bath</i> , <i>Bristol</i> , and <i>Melksbam</i> I found the	<i>M.</i>	<i>d.</i>
medium, - - -	110	$5\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Wiltshire</i> , between <i>Devizes</i> and <i>Salisbury</i> , - - -	85	$7\frac{1}{2}$
<i>N. B.</i> This variation is evidently owing to such a vast tract of country being sheep-walk.		
<i>Salisbury</i> , - - -	83	$6\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Hampshire</i> , about - - -	70	$6\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Surry</i> , near <i>Farnham</i> , about - - -	40	$7\frac{1}{2}$
and continues so to the near neighbourhood of <i>London</i> , except a fall of $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i> once near <i>Ripley</i> .		
<i>Essex</i> ,		

Places.	Distance from London.	Prices.
Essex, between Ingatestone	M.	d.
and Chelmsford,	26	8½

The excess of this halfpenny, I believe, held but a little time; in general, 8 d.

You must certainly allow, that the rise and fall of these prices, in proportion to the distance from the capital, are too regular to be the effect of soil, or accident; they are palpably caused by the *London* markets; since if goodness of soil, or quantity of grass operated so strongly, it should *sink* instead of *raise* the *London* prices. The difference between that city and the cheap parts of the kingdom, is 3 d. per lb. which is very considerable, much more than I apprehended. The variation will appear at one view in the following little table:

London, and 20 miles round,	d.
mean price,	8
From 20 miles to 60	6¾
From 60 miles to 110	6
From 110 miles to 170	5½

And the general medium is 6½; but if the proportion of numbers who eat, is taken in, it will be higher.—In excuse for being

being thus particular, in relation to butter, I must plead, that it is the only commodity which cannot be transported from a distance to *London*; and consequently it shews the proportional influence of that capital, better than any other article. I should, however, remark, that butter is much dearer, even in the most distant counties, if any other articles are commonly sent to *London*; for the lessening the quantity of any one species of provisions, will somewhat increase the price of every other.

The general medium of cheese through the whole journey, is $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

As to butcher's meat, some difference will be found between the capital and the distant parts of the kingdom; as the very expence of driving beasts must occasion some. I think the best way of displaying the prices, will be to give the medium of mutton, beef, and veal.

Places.	Distance.	Prices.			Med.
		Mutt.	Beef.	Veal.	
	Miles.	d.	d.	d.	2.
In <i>Norfolk</i> , 100 to 120		4	4	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Suffolk</i> , - - 70		4	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	$3\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Essex</i> , <i>Hedingham</i> , 55		$4\frac{1}{2}$	4	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$
	4				<i>Essex</i> ,

Places.	Distance. Miles.	Prices.			Med.
		Mutt. d.	Beef. d.	Veal. d.	
<i>Essex, Braintree,</i>	42	4	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{8}$
<i>Ditto, Billericay,</i>	20	5	$4\frac{1}{2}$	5	$4\frac{3}{4}$
<i>Kent, Bexley, -</i>	12	5	$4\frac{1}{2}$	5	$4\frac{3}{4}$
<i>Middlesex, Hayes,</i>	12	5	5	5	5
<i>Oxfordshire, Stoken</i>					
<i>Church, -</i>	40	$4\frac{1}{2}$	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{4}$
<i>————Tetsford,</i>	45	$4\frac{1}{4}$	4	0	$4\frac{1}{8}$
<i>————Witney,</i>	65	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4
<i>Gloucestershire, Sher-</i>					
<i>born, -</i>	78	4	4	0	4
<i>Gloucester, -</i>	107	4	$3\frac{3}{4}$	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Newnham, -</i>	123	4	4	0	4
<i>Monmouthshire, Chep-</i>					
<i>slow, -</i>	135	4	$3\frac{1}{2}$	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$
<i>————Newport,</i>	151	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	2	$3\frac{1}{8}$
<i>————Cowbridge,</i>	175	$3\frac{3}{4}$	4	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Between Bristol and</i>					
<i>Bath, -</i>	112	4	4	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{3}{4}$
<i>Wiltshire, Melksham,</i>	96	4	4	4	4
<i>————Devises to</i>					
<i>Salisbury, -</i>	85	4	4	0	4
<i>About Salisbury and</i>					
<i>Rumsey, -</i>	80	$4\frac{1}{2}$	3	2	$3\frac{1}{8}$
<i>Hampshire, between</i>					
<i>Rumsey and Win-</i>					
<i>chester, -</i>	75	4	4	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{3}{4}$
	S				<i>Hamp-</i>

Places.	Distance.	Prices.		Med.	
		Mutt.	Beef.	Veal.	
	Miles:	d.	d.	d.	d.
Hampshire, Alres-					
ford to Farnbam,	50	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	4	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Surry, between Guil-					
ford and Ripley,	26	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	0	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Essex, Ilford, -	6	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	4	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
— between In-					
gatestone, and					
Chelmsford, -	25	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$

In this article of butcher's meat, you see there is no such variation as in butter, except in veal, which is owing to the very same reason; the not being able to drive calves from a great distance to *London*. But in mutton and beef the difference between the capital and near 200 miles from it is but little. But this matter will appear in the clearest light, by the following tables of general mediums:

London, and 20	} mean price	} 4 $\frac{3}{4}$
miles around		
From 20 miles to 60,	ditto,	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
From 60 to 110, -	ditto,	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
From 110 to 170, -	ditto,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

Mediums of Mutton and Beef.

<i>London</i> , and 20 miles,	-	-	$4\frac{3}{4}$ d.
From 20 to 60,	-	-	$4\frac{1}{2}$
From 60 to 110,	-	-	$4\frac{1}{4}$
From 110 to 170,	-	-	$3\frac{3}{4}$

From hence it appears, that the difference between *London* and the cheapest places of this journey, in the price of meat in general, is $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. and of mutton and beef only 1 d. If we consider the expences of driving, and what is more, the waste of flesh upon the road, we shall not be surprized at this difference. The general medium of the three meats, is 4 d.

Of only mutton and beef, $4\frac{1}{4}$ d.

In case these prices should be extended, by supposition, to the whole kingdom, it is proper to remark; that in respect of the influence of great cities, I was never out of it. *London* affects the price of wheat every where; and though veal and butter were very cheap in *Wales*, yet the prices of them were by no means those which arose from a home consumption alone, as I plainly perceived by the great quantities

of provisions bought up in all the little ports of the *Severn*, by the *Bristol* market boats. As I drove from *Cardiff*, I met such numbers of butchers, with calves, that I inquired if that little town could consume such a quantity of veal; (it was market-day), they told me the boats were ready in the river to buy for *Bristol*. And this was doubtless the case with butter, &c. Had my private business then suffered me to penetrate further into *Wales*, beyond the course of these boats, and where no turnpike road exists, I have no doubt but I should have met with great changes in every thing, and such as would have given rise to some very important reflections. I found all the sensible people attributed the dearness of their country to the turnpike roads; and reason speaks the truth of their opinion. I can imagine many tracts of country, and there are certainly such in this kingdom, wherein provisions cannot be dear. The inhabitants of those tracts, are in the right to keep their secret; make but a turnpike-road through their country, and all the cheapness vanishes at once.

It is not at all to my purpose here, to enter into a disquisition, whether the prices of provisions had best be high or low; all I shall say on that subject is, they had better be excessive high than fluctuating. If high prices are a misfortune, I am sure they are not so great a one as fluctuating prices. Whatever attempts should therefore be made to lower the present prices, it ought either to be done in such a manner as to ensure regularity, or suffer them to take their own course.

Upon the whole, we find provisions to be on a medium:

		<i>d.</i>
Bread,	-	2 <i>per lb.</i>
Butter,	-	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese,	-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Meat,	-	4

In respect to other articles of a poor man's house-keeping, I was not so particular in my inquiries as I should be, was I to take such another journey; however, something may be gained from the articles of candles and firing:

CANDLES, per lb.		COALS, per bushel.	
	d.		d.
In Norfolk, - -	7	At Lynn, - -	0 7
In Suffolk, - -	7	Coals laid in, -	1 0
Essex, Hedingham,	7	— Ditto, - -	0 11
— Braintree to }	7½		
Chelmsford,			
Gloucester, - -	6	— — — —	0 3
In Wales, - -	6½	As much as six oxen	
		can draw, 3s.	
Hampshire, - -	7	— — — —	0 9
		Peat, 10 s. a waggon	
		load.	
Essex, Ilford, -	7½	— — — —	0 11
— Ingatestone to }	7½	— — — —	0 11
Chelmsford,		— — — —	0 11

I should not lay so imperfect a table before you, had not the few prices it contains been those of counties at a great distance from each other, by which means, a medium is the more accurately drawn.

Day-labour I shall lay before you in the same manner I have done provisions; but as the prices vary in summer, winter, &c. I think the only way to come at a regular proportion, is to take the medium of winter, spring, and harvest, which three prices are every where specified in the Tour; and will, I believe, give nearly the real mean amount of day-labour the whole year; but then, as victuals and drink,

drink, and even board are given in some places, especially at harvest, some estimation must be fixed upon for this. Ale and beer is in many places, within my knowledge, regularly reckoned at 2*d.* in the shilling; however, when I come to some places, where cyder was drank in common, I shall esteem it at 1*d.* and small-beer 1*d.* and a dinner I shall every where value at 6*d.* and a day's complete board at 10*d.* beside drink. I am sensible, 6*d.* is in many places a large allowance for a dinner; but I likewise know several others, where 1*s.* 6*d.* a head would not pay the harvest ones; so that on the whole, 6*d.* cannot be far from the general medium. I shall take no regular notice of the prices by the piece, unless it be at places where little day-work is done.

The winter price I reckon, from the most general observations I have made, to last from *October* to *March*, both inclusive. The spring ditto, from *April* to the third week in *August*, both inclusive, and harvest from the last week to the end of *September*. The time of beginning and ending harvest may vary, but it every where lasts, on a medium, five weeks.

Winter is, therefore, 26 weeks.

Spring, - - 21

Harvest, - - 5

Counties and Places. Pay per Week. Medium,

	Distance. Miles.	Wint.		Sum.		Harv.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Norfolk, the im- proved parts, }	100	6	0	7	0	17	10
Suffolk, between Bury and Had- leigh, }	65	6	6	8	0	11	6
Essex, Heddingham, Between Braintree and Chelmsford, }	55	6	6	*8	6	14	0
Kent, Bexley, -	40	7	0	8	6	14	0
Middlesex, Barnet, Hays, -	12	10	6	10	6	19	0
Buckinghamshire, High Wycomb, }	10	10	6	§11	6	17	6
Oxfordshire, Sto- ken Church, }	12	9	9	§11	6	17	6
Bet. Tetford and Oxford, }	30	6	0	†9	0	17	3
Between Woodstock and Witney, }	40	6	0	6	0	12	0
	45	6	0	†7	6	12	0
	65	6	0	6	6	9	0

* Hay time 10s. but as it lasts not so long as spring division, I call it 8s. 6d. They make great earnings at hop-work.

|| Ditto, 9s. 6d. therefore call it 8s. 6d.

§ Ditto, 14s. but lasts so little a time, call it 11s. 6d.

† Ditto, 12s. therefore say 9s.

† Nine shillings in hay, say therefore 7s. 6d.

Coun-

Counties and Places.	Distance. Miles.	Pay per Week.		Medium.	
		Wint.	Sum.	Harv.	
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Gloucestershire, } Sherborn, }	78	4 6	6 0	10 0	5 5
— Shipton, -	85	*6 0	7 3†	10 0	6 10
— Crickley, -	98	4 6	†5 0	10 0	5 2
— Between Gloucestershire and Newnham. }	115	5 6	§6 6	12 0	6 6
— Bet. ditto and Chepstow, }	130	6 0	7 0	12 0	6 10
Monmouthshire, } between ditto and Newport, }	140	5 5	6 6	11 6	6 5
Newport, -	145	5 0	5 0	11 8 0	5 2
Glamorganshire, } Cowbridge, }	175	6 0	6 0	6 0	6 0
— Bet. Bri- stol and Bath, }	112	6 0	7 0	†8 6	6 7
Wiltshire, Melk- sham, }	96	5 0	7 3	8 6	6 2
— Bet. De- vizes and Salif- bury. }	85	5 0	5 0	10 0	5 3
— Bet. ditto and Rumsey, }	80	5 6	6 9	10 6	6 5
Hampshire, bet. ditto and Win- chester, }	75	6 0	6 6	10 0	6 6

* Never used before last winter to be more than 4 s. 6d.

† Nine shillings in mowing time and 7 s. in spring ; so I reckon the medium 7 s. 3d.

‡ Six shillings in mowing time.

§ In hay time 9 s.

|| But 5 s. but mowing heighten it.

‡ Only 7 s. but mowing and reaping raise it.

Coun.

<i>Counties and Places.</i>	<i>Distance.</i> <i>Miles.</i>	<i>Pay per Week.</i>		<i>Medium.</i>	
		<i>Wint.</i> <i>s. d.</i>	<i>Sum.</i> <i>s. d.</i>	<i>Harv.</i> <i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Hampshire, bet. Al-</i>	55	7 0	7 0	*8 0	7 1
<i>resford and Alton</i>					
<i>— Bet. ditto</i>	45	6 0	6 0	16 0	7 9
<i>and Farnham,</i>					
<i>Surry, between</i>	28	7 0	8 0	13 6	8 0
<i>Guilford and</i>					
<i>Ripley,</i>	12	8 0	12 0	18 0	10 0
<i>— About King-</i>					
<i>stone,</i>	6	8 6	10 0	17 6	9 11
<i>Essex, Ilford,</i>					
<i>— Between In-</i>	26	7 0	8 0	15 6	8 6
<i>gatestone and</i>					
<i>Chelmsford,</i>					

These mediums, according to the distance from the capital, are as follow :

Twenty miles around <i>London</i> ,	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
mean price,	10	9
From 20 to 60,	7	8
From 60 to 110,	6	4
From 110 to 170,	6	8
General medium, 7 s. 9 d. per week.		

One remark I should make, which is, that throughout the whole Tour, the labourers earn in the year more than the

* In this and other instances the daily pay is the same as in winter; but then the mowing and reaping being done by the piece, I state the proportion as exactly as I am able.

above sums, for I every where found that much work was done by the piece; now it is well known they always earn more in that manner than at daily wages; which in the year makes a very considerable difference: within the extent of my experience and information, this difference amounts to a full fourth, the proportion taken of all sorts of work; for if you turn over the preceding sheets, you will find that the prices of the piece-work are, in general, out of proportion to the daily prices; they are so much higher: and this is the case, not with any particular country or place, but universally. No labourers will take work by the piece, without a certainty of earning more than the common pay, in return for working so much harder for themselves than they do for their masters.

In my own opinion, this circumstance will more than raise the general medium 7 s. 9 d. to 8 s.

You see, Sir, by these tables, that the influence of the capital, in raising the price of labour, is prodigious; the difference between the extremes, being no less than 4 s. 6 d. or near three fourths of the lowest

lowest country price. Nor can any the least reason be given for this. At *London* the bread is eat as cheap as any where, and meat only 1 *d.* *per lb.* dearer than the cheapest part of the country; the price of provisions, therefore, has nothing to do with labour. The vast populousness of *London* and its neighbourhood, ought to lower the price of labour; and did not the debauched life of its inhabitants, occasion them to be more idle than in the country, it would have that effect: but the very maxims and principles upon which life is founded in great cities, are the most powerful of all enemies to common industry.

But it is not only on a general view, that a want of proportion between labour and provisions is found; for it is the same at particular places, where provisions are the cheapest, it will not be found that labour is the same.

Upon comparing the prices of both, they will be found so various, that chance alone seems to guide them: this random variation, however, has nothing to do with the rise of prices, the nearer you approach

proach *London*; as it is regular, and has an evident and powerful cause.

Politicians are so clear in their opinion, that low prices of labour are of the utmost importance to all trading states; that I must be allowed to express my amazement, at the legislature's suffering the capital to increase in the prodigious manner it has done of late. If *London*, as it is calculated, contains one sixth part of the nation; one sixth of the nation's labour is thereby raised near *three fourths* of its price; and another vast rise, is to the distance of near 100 miles; and this amounts to *a third*. All this is upon a supposition, that the influence of the capital does not reach 175 miles; which there is no reason to believe the case; but as that was the furthest point of the Tour, and of course labour the cheapest, it is taken as the uninfluenced mean; was it extended to a much greater distance, this influence of *London* would appear yet stronger. If a low price of labour is a public benefit, sure the size of *London* is a public evil!—I wish these inquiries were regularly extended, even to the Highlands of *Scotland* and the western isles; such a journey

journey would afford plenty of matter for enlarging upon these subjects.—Were I not fearful of being too tedious, I should extend these reflections further; but for so short a tour I have been voluminous enough; I shall therefore pass on to manufacturers. Of their earnings I shall give you a little sketch;

Lavenham, says and calimancoes, *s. d.*

earn per week, on a medium,
the year round, - - - 5 9

Sudbury, burying-crape, &c. 7 6

Heddingham, bays and says, - 7 0

Braintree, says and druggets, 6 0

Witney, piece-goods and blankets, 11 0

Gloucester, pins, - - - 11 0

Wilton, carpets, - - - 11 0

Salisbury flannels and linseys, 8 0

Rumsey ratinets, - - - 9 0

Wool-combers every where, on an average, - - - 13 0

Medium earnings in the East of England; from *Lavenham* to *Braintree* inclusive, - 6 6

In the West, at *Witney* and *Gloucester*, - - - 11 10

In the South, *Wilton*, *Salisbury*, and *Rumsey*, - - - 9 4

Me-

Medium of labourers pay in the s. d.
 East, about the above manu-
 facturing towns and neighbour-
 hoods, taken from the table,
 page 264, - - - 8 0

Ditto, around those in the West, 5 10

Ditto, those in the South, - 6 0

s. d.

General medium of manufacturers, 8 5

Ditto, of labourers, - - 7 9

The former superior by - - 0 8

N. B. The *Woodstock* manufacturers earn infinitely more than any; but I leave them out, because their number is very small, and their work a matter of mere elegance.

You observe that I have contrasted the earnings of labourers and manufacturers in the East, West, and South of *England*. I did this for a reason which I shall now explain.

In the West of *England*, the late riots on account of the high prices of provisions, ran higher and were more violent than in any part of the kingdom. As I passed through these parts, I made many inquiries concerning the rioters, and found that they
 in

in general consisted of manufacturers; — that the labourers among them were instigated by the manufacturers, who were not only infinitely the most numerous, but were those who *began*.

I was not at all surprized at this information; which, from its generality, I have great reason to believe true. In the South of *England* likewise, about the above named manufacturing towns, was much rioting; and also by manufacturers, few labourers among them. In the East too, was a riot, particularly at *Long Melford*, &c. between *Sudbury* and *Lavenham*; this was composed of labourers, remarkably so; for they gathered like a snow-ball, at almost every farm-yard they came to.

Now, Sir, remark the comparisons above drawn up, between the manufacturer's and labourer's pay; — there you will find, that in the West and South of *England*, the manufacturers earn nine and eleven shillings; the labourers five and six shillings. The former were those who rioted.

In the East the manufacturers earn 6 s. 6 d. the labourers 8 s. The latter were those who rioted.

Very

Very far is it from my thoughts, to assert or hint, that our poor are too well paid;—I am sensible that there is much wretchedness amongst some of them, which ought to be alleviated; but I must at the same time assert, riots and public disturbances form no just rules to judge by. If the above state of the case, candidly drawn up, from the best information I could get, does not at least prove this; I am sure it proves nothing.

It was always my opinion, and experience confirms it; that sober and industrious workmen, of any sort, never riot. In all occupations, there will be idle, drunken, unsettled, and disorderly persons; a few of these getting together, and talking over the *dearths of provisions*, (which presently becomes a cant term among them) inflame each other, and all of their own stamp; they know a riot is their best diversion; to stroll in a party about the country, eating and drinking at free cost, and having no work to do but mischief, suits such geniuses to a hair: and one riot is no sooner kicked up, than the news occasions many others. But what are the effects of all this?—Why the

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price

price of provisions is a topic bandied about, from one side of the kingdom to the other; with abundance of rhetorical flourishes, on the distresses of the poor rioters, until, at last, the reality of their complaints is taken for granted; they are pitied in proportion to the degree of their plundering and burning; and our statesmen are clamoured into measures.—But let me avoid sliding into the mysterious region of politics: I mean to deal in facts alone; happy when I can discover them pure and unalloyed with prejudice.

Whatever may be your opinion of this point, *the Price of Provisions*, let me request that you would not give any credit to the pleas of rioters. You may have good reasons for thinking either way; but let not these lawless plunderers, who are universally the very skum, and riff raff of their neighbourhood, have the least effect upon your opinions. The more such fellows earn, the more succeeding time and money they have for the ale-house and disorderly meetings; and of course more in their power to do mischief. But to have done with this disagreeable subject.

Labour in some parts of the kingdom is certainly too low; in the West of *England*,

for

for instance, to have it at several places so low as 5 or 6s. the year round, bears no proportion to the prices of necessaries. If any thing could justify riots, it was the low earnings of these labourers, and not those of the manufacturers, who could earn twice as much. I am, by no means, a competent judge of what ought to be the price of labour; but it is clear enough to me, that this price is as much too low, as that about the capital is too high.

It is worthy of remark, that the general medium of manufacturers, is 8*d.* a week more than labourers; and that without taking in the very great earnings of wool-combers.

Before I finish these remarks, I shall add a few words on the experimental agriculture I met with. I wish I had been more fortunate in falling upon a greater number of trials, out of the common road; for such as I found, yield but very little determinate knowledge. Lucerne is the principal plant which those gentlemen cultivate, whose trials I viewed:

At the improved farm at <i>Toslock</i> , near <i>Bury</i> ; in drills two feet asunder,	}	Maintains two cows per acre all summer.
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T 2

At

At *Lavenham*; in } Answered finely in
drills two feet } a burning sum-
afunder, } mer.
At *Hadleigh*, Doctor } Ten horses and five
Tanner's; five acres } cows maintained all
broadcast, } summer.
At ditto, Mr. New- } Cut once oftener than
comb's, transplanted } Dr. *Tanner's*; but did
three feet four } not yield so much in
inches, } quantity.
Between *Storn* and } Very fine crops, on
Gravesend, broad- } land at twenty shil-
cast, } lings per acre.
At *Wilton*, drills one } Fine crop, reckoned a
foot afunder, } great improvement.
Mr. *Baldwin's* at } Was above two feet
Clapham; drills two } high, and had been
feet afunder, and } cut once; answered
transplanted at dit- } greatly.
to, }
At *Luxborough*; } Very fine.
transplanted three }
feet four inches, }
At *Ilford*; broad- } Three acres fed eight
cast and drilled, } horses; broadcast
drills. } double quantity to
drills.

I am sensible that such general expressions as most of these, amount to but little satisfaction: however, it is observable, that the *determinate* intelligence, as that at *Tostock*, *Hadleigh*, and *Ilford*, proves Lucerne to be an object of great — of very great importance. My materials will allow me to add no more. As to Burnet, Timothy, &c. &c. the experiments on it are too few to decide any thing.

I cannot conclude, without again repeating, what I have mentioned more than once; that you must not expect the authority of such a journey as mine, to be equivalent to a general and comprehensive view of the whole island, founded as much upon facts, as the reflections which I have drawn from this little Tour. The extent of my information has not been great; but I flatter myself that I have not neglected to turn it to some little use.

Was any one to follow my example, so far as to take minutes of a journey; he would, doubtless, profit by my errors and omissions; and be (as I should myself, in case I was accidentally to take another) more particular and methodical in his inquiries, and that, especially, at the begin-

ning of his journey : but with whatsoever *spirit* he prosecuted such a plan, he would have full employment for it ; and if I may judge from my own experience, would not find the gaining a variety of intelligence a business of little fatigue, or small expence. Nothing of this kind could give me more satisfaction, than to see a universal knowledge of the present state of the rural œconomy and manufactures of the whole kingdom published for the general good. I make no doubt but you will agree with me in wishing for such a work, how little reason soever there is to expect it*.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Your's very sincerely,

* * * * *

The houses which particularly merit a comparison, are *Holkham*, *Houghton*, *Blenheim*, *Wilton*, and *Wanstead*.

In point of the beauty of architecture, *Holkham* and *Wanstead* rank first ; but which

* The noblemen's houses, described in the preceding sheets, form a subject of no importance, but perhaps of some little amusement ; in this light, I venture to offer the sketch of a comparison between them, which need not disgust any reader by its inutility ; as he may throw aside the book without reading this note.

of

of these have the preference, is a question, which by many would be variously determined. In my opinion, *Holkham* is the most beautiful; for notwithstanding the front of *Wanshead* is *absolutely* uniform, and commanded at one stroke of the eye, advantages *Holkham* does not possess, in consisting of parts, which, though uniform with each other, form not one simple whole; yet there is such a light elegance in the pile; such an airiness, that one would swear it moved; I cannot therefore but prefer it. *Wilton* is so very irregular, that one cannot speak of its architecture in a general stile; but *Inigo Jones's* part is very fine. *Houghton* is a magnificent edifice, but it is heavy; not, however, to come within a thousand degrees of *Blenheim*; which is a quarry, and yet consists of such innumerable and trifling parts, that one would think them the fragments of a rock jumbled together by an earthquake.

As to their size, I am ignorant which is the largest house: However the following sketch will display it, at least in the proportion to what is shewn; which I take generally to amount to all that is worth seeing.

Rooms.

Rooms.	Holkam. Leng. Bre.	Houghton. Leng. Bre.	Blenheim. Leng. Bre.	Wilton. Leng. Bre.	Wanslead. Leng. Bre.
Hall,	†† 48 48	† 40 40	† 53 44	50 28	53 45
Saloon,	42 27	§ 40 30	* 41 33	† § 60 30	30 30
Drawing-room,	33 22	30 21	28 28	* † 30 30	27 27
Ditto,	33 22	30 21	35 25		30 25
Ditto,			35 25		† 40 27
Ditto,			25 25		27 27
Dining-room,	28 28	20 21	**	45 21	27 27
Ditto,		† 30 21			25 25
Ditto,					40 27
Ditto,					40 35
Breakfast-room,					30 25
Library,	50 21	21 ½ 22 ½	24 24 180 43		
Statue-gallery,	114 22				
Ball-R.					75 27
Bed-cha.	30 22	21 ½ 22 ½		30 25	24 20
Ditto,	24 22	21 ½ 22 ½			25 22
Ditto,	21 21	22 ½ 18			27 22
Ditto,	21 21	18 18			27 22
Ditto,	21 21				
Dressing room,	* 14 22	23 ½ 16 ½	21 24	25 25	27 25
Ditto,	28 24	† 22 ½ 21			26 18 ½
Ditto,	22 21				
Ditto,	22 21				
Ditto,	22 21				
Ditto,	22 21				

†† 48 High. † 40 Ditto. † 60 Ditto. § 40 Ditto.
 * 45 Ditto. † § 30 Ditto. * † 30 Ditto. †† Called,
 improperly, the Antichamber. ** Not seen.
 †† Called the Marble Parlour. * Called the Land-
 scape-Room. † Called the Cabinet.

† There appears a deficiency of dressing-rooms at
Wanslead; but it should be remembered, there are four
 drawing-rooms and four dining-rooms, some of them
 adjoining the bed-chambers.

Rooms.

Rooms.	Holkam.	Houghton.	Blenheim.	Wilton.	Wanstead.
	Leng. Bre.	Leng. Bre.	Leng. Bre.	Leng. Bre.	Leng. Bre.
Anti-chamber.	21 21				
Ditto,	21 21				
Ditto,	21 21				
Hunting-room,				25 25	
Totals,	749 511 1260	350 295 645	448 271 719	265 184 449	600 476 1076

Blenheim hall and library, *Wilton* saloon, and *Holkam* statue-gallery, are the finest rooms in these houses.

In respect of complete apartments; of bed-chambers and dressing-rooms, *Holkam* and *Wanstead*, some would think, nearly on a par, the latter four, the former six; but the latter are much the best rooms. I include four rooms at *Wanstead*, which in the table are called either dining or drawing-rooms; the advantage, however, is on the side of *Holkam*.

A ball-room is found at *Wanstead* alone.

Holkam chapel (not mentioned in the table) is preferable to that at *Blenheim*.

As to the deficiencies of these houses, they appear at one view in the table. But I must remark in general, that no house I have yet seen is perfect by many degrees. Suppose one was to be formed out of all these; take the shell of *Holkam*, and ima-

gine it to contain *Blenheim* hall and library, *Wilton* saloon, *Wanstead* ball-room and large dining-room; besides every thing it has already, it would be infinitely finer than it is; but still it would want a music-room and a picture-gallery. The last is an infinite addition to a great house, but the former is indispensable: I cannot allow any to be nearly complete without one. Of all luxuries, none is more elegant than this charming art; pictures and statues may be disposed in any room; but music in perfection, must have one appropriated to it—nor can any furniture be more magnificent, than what ought to adorn such a room. An organ is one striking article.

Upon the whole, *Holkam* is not only the largest, but undoubtedly the best house.

M E M O R A N D U M

I never went any journey, without finding the want of a knowledge of the inns before I set out. The following slight mention of those I stop at, may be of some use to others who travel the same road.

HOLKAM. *Leicester Arms.* Clean, civil, and reasonable.

FA-

- FAKENHAM. *Red-Lyon*. Good.
- LYNN. *Duke's-Head*. Exceeding civil and reasonable.
- STOAK. *Crown*. Ditto.
- THETFORD. *Bell*. Good.
- BURY. *Angel*. Very civil and reasonable.
- LAVENHAM. *Swan*. Civil and reasonable.
- HADLEIGH. *George*. Ditto.
- SUDBURY. *Crown*. Ditto.
- CASTLE-HEDINGHAM. *Bell*. Clean and reasonable.
- BRAINTREE. *Horn*. Very clean and civil.
- CHELMSFORD. *Black-Boy*. Clean, but dear.
- TILBURY. *King's-Head*. Very civil and very reasonable.
- BARNET. *Red-Lyon*. Good and reasonable.
- WYCOMB. *Antelope*. Exceeding good, civil, and not unreasonable.
- TETSFORD. *Swan*. Good.
- OXFORD. *Angel*. Ditto.
- WODDSTOCK. *Bear*. Ditto, and very reasonable.
- NORTH-LEACH. *King's-Head*. Very bad and very dear.
- GLOUCESTER. *King's-Head*. Very good, civil, and reasonable.
- NEWNHAM. *The Passage-House*. Very bad and dear.

CHEP-

CHEPSTOW. *Three-Cranes*. Good, civil,
and reasonable.

NEWPORT. *Westgate-House*. Ditto.

CARDIFF. *White-Lyon*. Bad.

Ditto. *Angel*. Worse.

COWBRIDGE. *Bear*. Middling; but very
civil and reasonable.

BRISTOL. *White-Lyon*. Good; but very
dear.

BATH. *Three-Tuns*. Good.

DEVISES. *Bear*. Exceedingly good, and
remarkably civil.

SALISBURY. *Three-Lyons*. Good; but very
dear.

RUMSEY. *Bell*. Good.

WINCHESTER. *George*. Dirty and dear;
but civil.

ALRESFORD. *Swan*. Good, clean, and
civil.

WANSTEAD. *Eagle*. Good.

Ditto. *Bush*. Impertinent and dirty.

ILFORD. *Red-Lyon*. Civil, clean, and
very reasonable.

BURNT-WOOD. *White-Hart*. Good, clean,
reasonable, and civil.—But the size
and goodness of the *houses*, are not
taken minutely into the account.

F I N I S.





